

New Designated Substances Regulation for Ontario

Ontario has just recently created a new designated substances regulation that consolidates all of the previous designated substances regulations (with the exception of O. Reg 278/05, Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations). The new regulation also updates occupational exposure limits (OELs) for 36 hazardous substances. The new regulation will come into effect July 1, 2010.

Highlights of the new regulation include:

- Consistent approach to dealing with existing requirements and provisions with respect to designated substances.
- Assessments required where workers are, or are likely, exposed to one of the designated substances
- Control programs (or emergency program for ethylene oxide) when workers are likely exposed to a designated substance and worker health may be affected by this exposure - this includes providing for procedures, control measures, training and monitoring of the designated substance
- Retention of all records, including medical records
- Employer must consult with the Joint Health and Safety Committee in the assessment process and in creating the control program for designated substances