

### British Columbia

*British Columbia has strict and specific laws regarding Working Alone. SafetyLine™ provides a system designed to help organizations meet regulations.*



#### Web Links:

WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation:

<http://www2.worksafebc.com/Publications/OHSRegulation/Part4.asp?from=regulation.healthandsafetycentre.org#SectionNumber:4.20.1>

**REGULATION: Taken from WorkSafeBC Occupational Health and Safety Regulation:**

### Working Alone or In Isolation

#### 4.20.1 Definition

In sections 4.20.2 to 4.23, "**to work alone or in isolation**" means to work in circumstances where assistance would not be readily available to the worker

- (a) in case of an emergency, or
- (b) in case the worker is injured or in ill health.

*[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 318/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]*

#### 4.20.2 Hazard identification, elimination and control

- (1) Before a worker is assigned to work alone or in isolation, the employer must identify any hazards to that worker.
- (2) Before a worker starts a work assignment with a hazard identified under subsection (1), the employer must take measures
  - (a) to eliminate the hazard, and
  - (b) if it is not practicable to eliminate the hazard, to minimize the risk from the hazard.
- (3) For purposes of subsection (2) (b), the employer must minimize the risk from the hazard to the lowest level practicable using engineering controls, administrative controls or a combination of engineering and administrative controls.

*[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 318/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]*

#### 4.21 Procedures for checking well-being of worker

- (1) The employer must develop and implement a written procedure for checking the well-being of a worker assigned to work alone or in isolation.
- (2) The procedure for checking a worker's well-being must include the time interval between checks and the procedure to follow in case the worker cannot be contacted, including provisions for emergency rescue.
- (3) A person must be designated to establish contact with the worker at predetermined intervals and the results must be recorded by the person.
- (4) In addition to checks at regular intervals, a check at the end of the work shift must be done.
- (5) The procedure for checking a worker's well-being, including time intervals between the checks, must be developed in

consultation with the joint committee or the worker health and safety representative, as applicable.

(6) Time intervals for checking a worker's well-being must be developed in consultation with the worker assigned to work alone or in isolation.

*[Amended by B.C. Reg. 318/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]*

**Note:** High risk activities require shorter time intervals between checks. The preferred method for checking is visual or two-way voice contact, but where such a system is not practicable, a one-way system which allows the worker to call or signal for help and which will send a call for help if the worker does not reset the device after a predetermined interval is acceptable.

### 4.22 Training

A worker described in section 4.21(1) and any person assigned to check on the worker must be trained in the written procedure for checking the worker's well-being.

*[Amended by B.C. Reg. 318/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]*

#### 4.22.1 Late night retail safety procedures and requirements

(1) In this section:

"late night hours" means any time between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.;

"late night retail premises" means

(a) a gas station or other retail fueling outlet, or

(b) a convenience store or any other retail store where goods are sold directly to consumers that is open to the public for late night hours.

(2) If a worker is assigned to work alone or in isolation in late night retail premises and there is any risk of harm from a violent act to the worker, then, in addition to any other obligations the employer has under sections [4.20.2 to 4.23](#),

(a) the employer must develop and implement a written procedure to ensure the worker's safety in handling money, and

(b) when that worker is assigned to work late night hours, the employer must also do either or both of the following:

(i) ensure that the worker is physically separated from the public by a locked door or barrier that prevents physical contact with or access to the worker;

(ii) assign one or more workers to work with the worker during that worker's assignment.

(3) A worker described in subsection (2) must be trained in the written procedure referred to in that subsection.

*[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 318/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]*

#### 4.22.2 Mandatory prepayment for fuel

An employer must require that customers prepay for fuel sold in gas stations and other retail fueling outlets.

*[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 318/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]*

### 4.23 Annual reviews of procedures

The procedures referred to in sections [4.21](#) and [4.22.1](#) must be reviewed at least annually, or more frequently if there is

(a) a change in work arrangements which could adversely affect a worker's well-being or safety, or

(b) a report that the procedures are not working effectively.

*[Enacted by B.C. Reg. 318/2007, effective February 1, 2008.]*