

July 26, 2022

## WorkSafeBC Asbestos Certification and Licencing Implementation: Quarter 2 Update

The provincial government has amended the *Workers Compensation Act* to establish requirements that asbestos abatement contractors must be licensed to operate in British Columbia, and that workers and employers who perform this work must complete mandatory safety training and certification. WorkSafeBC will be providing quarterly updates on their progress in implementing these requirements. The following is an overview of WorkSafeBC's Quarter 2 update.

### Overview of WorkSafeBC's implementation plan

WorkSafeBC's implementation plan includes multiple streams of work, many of which have interdependencies with each other, and allocates time for engaging stakeholders on key milestones. The streams of work that will be of most interest to you are:

- Developing the standards that asbestos safety training and certification programs must comply with
- Developing a licensing scheme for abatement contractors
- Amending the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation to align with the changes to the *Workers Compensation Act*, and support the certification and licensing schemes

### Activities this quarter

Effective dates for all of the changes to the *Workers Compensation Act* are still to be established, but WorkSafeBC has begun work on developing certification and licensing standards, framework, and governance, as the outcomes of this stream of work will have an influence on the others.

As an initial step in this process, WorkSafeBC conducted a series of job analysis sessions in April and May, which were attended by workers, employers, consultants, and trainers who have occupational experience with asbestos abatement. These sessions were moderated by an independent, expert facilitator and were intended to help develop, describe, and validate the knowledge, skills, and abilities required by workers to safely perform asbestos abatement work.

### Upcoming activities

Worker and employer representatives from the asbestos abatement industry continue to provide feedback to WorkSafeBC on the knowledge and skills required for asbestos abatement workers. WorkSafeBC is currently compiling a report on the job analysis feedback and will verify the findings with participants from the job analysis sessions.

As part of standard business practices, the stream of work for regulation development is targeted to begin by Fall 2022.

### Resources

WorkSafeBC Asbestos Certification and Licensing Implementation: Q2 Update is found [here](#).

To sign up for WorkSafeBC Policy, Regulation, and Research updates, visit [here](#).

Review the Bill 5 information on WorkSafeBC's Amendments and Revisions to the Act, [here](#).

More WorkSafeBC Asbestos Health and Safety Information can be found [here](#).

If you have any questions about WorkSafeBC Asbestos Certification and Licencing Implementation, please contact Glen Williams CLR.