



OH&S Safety Matters

WSBC Flat Rates for 2019

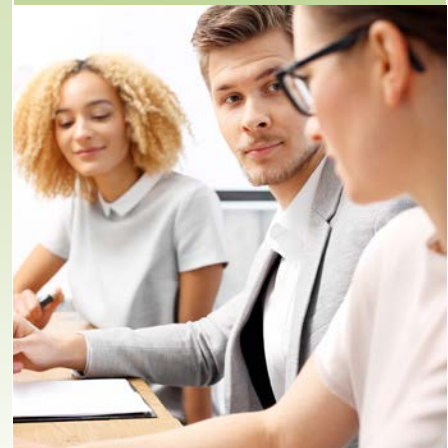
WorkSafeBC announced that the average base rate to pay for the workers compensation system for 2019 is maintained at the same level as 2018, at 1.55% of employers' assessable payroll.

How the rates are set - The Workers Compensation Act requires premium rates to be set by WorkSafeBC annually for employers in order to pay for the workers' compensation system. Employers are placed in one of 547 classification units with other similar businesses. These classification units are then placed into one of 51 insurance pools called rate groups.

Employers in each rate group pay the costs of injuries and diseases that occur to the workers within the group, with the intent that each rate group be self-sufficient with regard to compensation costs. This limits cross-subsidization between industries, maintains stable insurance rates, and limits growth of unfunded liabilities in the rate groups. Each year, costs in some rate groups go up, some go down and others stay the same. In 2019, 51% of employers in B.C. are projected to experience a decrease in their industry base rate, 46% will see their industry base rate increase, and 3% will see no change.

How are classifications assigned - A company registers for WorkSafeBC insurance, and is assigned to a classification unit based on the products they produce, the services they provide, and the technology, or materials they use. Some classification units aren't big enough to predict claim costs, so they are combined with classification units of similar types of industries to form an industry group (for example, berry farms, vineyard and wineries). Some classification units are large enough to form their own industry group. There are about 230 industry groups. The industry groups are then combined into rate groups. Some industry groups are large enough to form their own rate groups, but those that are not large enough are combined with other industry groups that have a similar claim cost profile. There are about 50 rate groups. Finally, WorkSafeBC calculates the appropriate base premium rate for each rate group. The base premium rate is applied to each classification unit in the rate group. Employers in each rate group pay the costs of injuries, diseases, and prevention activities for the group. As costs change, so do rates.

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Safe Handling of Pallets

Prior to the invention of the wood pallet, there were all types of shipping containers being used, that all had different applications depending on what products were to be shipped. The history of the pallet and the history of the fork lift are linked as there was a need to invent a shipping container compatible with the use of a forklift.

The pallet originated as an improved version of the hand carried wooden skid. A skid is a single-deck loading platform which lacks a bottom deck. It is a low-profile mobile platform which simply rests on pedestals that are attached to the deck. Skids were in use before the creation of the double-faced wooden pallet and are still in use today, but differ to the modern-day pallet as a pallet has deck boards that run along the bottom to align the forks of a pallet jack or fork lift under the pallet.

Pallets are used to stack, store, protect, and transport materials in the course of being handled by materials handling equipment such as forklifts, pallet jacks or conveyors, being stored on racks or bulk storage or being loaded on a transport vehicle. The pallet is the most common base for the unit load, which includes the pallet and the goods stacked atop it, typically secured by stretch wrap, strapping, shrink wrap, adhesive, and collars.

As alternative materials such as plastics make their way into the production of pallets, wood

continues to dominate as the material of choice, providing excellent value and performance.

Pallets are classified into three general groups:

- expendable or non-returnable shipping pallets,
- general purpose or reusable warehouse pallets, and
- special purpose pallets.

Expendable pallets are usually one-trip structures and are also referred to as shipping pallets. General-purpose pallets are suitable for continuous service in warehousing and shipping and are sometimes referred to as warehouse pallets. Special purpose pallets are for a specific or particular product or service.

Handling goods involve diverse operations such as carrying bags or materials manually; stacking palletized materials such as boxes, drums and barrels. The efficient handling and storing of materials is vital however, the improper handling of materials can result in costly injuries.

Whether we are moving materials manually or mechanically, we all need to know and understand the potential hazards associated with the task at hand and how to implement hazard handling controls to eliminate or minimize the danger.



The Safe Handling of Pallets and Skids training includes, the following topics:

- (a) the applicable legislations;
- (b) the causes of accidents and injuries;
- (c) hazard awareness;
- (d) worker responsibilities;
- (e) types of pallets and skids;
- (f) classifications of pallets,
- (g) component materials,
- (h) load conditions,
- (i) marking of pallets,
- (j) safe materials handling,
- (k) essentials of packaging,
- (l) strapping and wrapping goods,
- (m) repair, recycle and disposal of pallets and skids.

OH&S has designed a safety program titled *Safe Handling of Pallets and Skids* used for general industry safety training to provide general information to workers, members of JOSH committees, supervisors, and managers.

The scope of this course is to convey the particulars about the safe use of pallets and skids in order to stack, and transport materials in the performance of work tasks while on the job.

Call OH&S Safety to get the instructor training you need to deliver programs at your job site Today !

New Pallet Jack Safety Training Program



Motorized Walkie and Walkie-Rider Pallet Jack Operator

Sometimes known as a pallet jack or a pallet lifter, the pallet truck makes it possible to roll a set of forks into a pallet, lift it off the ground a few inches and move it to a different location. A pallet jack is a basic form of fork lift which is used mainly to move pallets around a warehouse.

Powered pallet jacks, also known as electric pallet trucks, walkies, single or double pallet jacks, or power jack, are motorized to allow lifting and moving of heavy and stacked pallets. Some have a platform for the user to stand on while moving pallets. This type is a walkie-rider powered pallet jack.

Only personnel who have been trained in the inspection, and the operation of a motorized pallet truck, including the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with their operation in accordance with the operators manual, the user's operating guidelines, and government regulations shall operate a motorized walkie or walkie rider pallet truck.



Motorized pallet truck training is to be in accordance with CSA standard CSA B335-15 which defines the training requirements. Pallet truck training is to include theory, hands-on skills practice, knowledge verification and pallet truck operator evaluation. All four of these components of training are required to ensure that instruction is understood.

Manual hand pallet jacks can lift as much as 5000 kg in weight and that is enough capacity to move even the heaviest of pallets.

Electric walkie pallet jacks can lift slightly less weight, but they do take out all of the lift work. They are not able to lift as much weight as a manual pallet jack, however the operator does not have to manually crank the pallet jack handle. Electric pallet jacks allow you to lift and move heavy loads using a control located on the pallet jack handle.

Electric pallet jacks are typically able to lift upwards of 1500 kg. and the forks on the pallet jack can be lowered to a height of about 8 cm. (3 in.) off the floor surface. The forks can be lifted to a height of approximately 20 cm. (8 in.).



Walkie-rider pallet jacks have the ultimate control and stability with higher weight capacities of up to 3628 kg. (8,000 lbs.) and more.

The operator of a self propelled electric power pallet truck must operate the equipment safely, maintain full control and comply with the occupational regulations and company policies regarding safe working practices for the equipment. Improper usage can cause injuries or can damage the equipment.

The goal of this new course is to help you better understand what a Motorized Pallet Jack operator responsibilities are and how to manage those responsibilities to protect your health and safety and the health and safety of your co-workers.

The **Motorized Pallet Jack Operator** safety training program has been designed to provide the necessary general information to workers, members of JOSH committees, supervisors, and managers.

Call OH&S Safety to get the instructor training you need to deliver Motorized Pallet Truck programs on your job site Today !

High-visibility Safety Apparel

High-visibility safety apparel is clothing (e.g., vests, or coveralls) that workers can wear to improve how well other people "see" them (their visibility). Most often, high-visibility clothing is worn to alert drivers and other vehicle operators of a worker's presence, especially in low light and dark conditions.



Requirements for high-visibility safety clothing worn by Canadian workers is found in the CSA Standard Z96-15 High-Visibility Safety Apparel.

The CSA Standard recommends that a hazard assessment be carried out on each job site to evaluate the workplace or work site for known or potential hazards a worker can encounter while performing a job or task. This assessment helps to determine the risk to workers of being hit by moving vehicles and

the environmental conditions under which work is performed. Once a hazard assessment is complete, the employer can select appropriate controls.

The first line of defence for workers safety is to control the design of the workplace and reduce the workers exposure to moving vehicles. High-visibility apparel is the last line of defence against accidents by providing more warning to vehicle operators that workers are on foot in the area.

OH&S Safety Training Solutions 778.471.6407

Classroom Based - Instructor Led Safety Training



ATV and LTV Operator
Our ATV and LTV Operator course has been developed for those with an occupational requirement to be trained to safely undertake work activities that involve the operation of an All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) and/or a Utility Terrain Vehicle (LTV). The goal of this course is to help you better understand what an ATV and LTV Operator responsibilities are and how to manage those responsibilities to protect your health and safety and the health and safety of your co-workers.



Boom Trucks, Ladders and Aerials
This training program encompasses activities that involve the operation of Light Duty Booms, Trucks, with a rated capacity of less than five tons with a boom length of less than 25 feet based on the manufacturer's use (Raising, lowering and the rigging of loads. Only qualified persons trained in the inspection, application, and operation of a crane or hoist, including the recognition and avoidance of hazards associated with their operation, shall operate the equipment.



Confined Space Entry - General Industry
Confined spaces are potentially one of the most dangerous of all workplaces. However the goal of this course is to prepare you to safely perform work in a confined space. By the end of this course you will be able to describe a confined space, describe various hazards and know how to handle hazards that are identified, you will understand the confined space permit system and about something going terribly wrong, you will know how to effect a non entry rescue.



Confined Space Entry - Mining Industry
The Mines Act and the accompanying Health, Safety and Rehabilitation Code for mines in British Columbia is the Code that protects workers health and safety and it requires legislation related to confined space activities. This legislation obligates the mine manager to ensure that written procedures are developed and each person who is assigned duties or responsibilities related to entry into a confined space is adequately trained. This course will provide you with the information that is used to implement a Confined Space Entry Program.



Confined Space Rescue Basics
The occupational health and safety regulation requires the employer to prepare a written confined space entry program that includes procedures for rescue. This course will provide the information used to establish an industrial confined space rescue response and the training that is needed to prepare individuals to implement rescue operations. It takes a mix of prevention, planning, preparation, training and communication to create and sustain an effective Confined Space Rescue response.

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Staying in Touch

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We appreciate your business, and look forward to working with you to achieve your safety training goals. Thank you!



OH&S Safety Consulting and Training Solutions

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