



# University of Toronto

---

(ORIGINATING OFFICE)

TO: Business Board

FROM: Professor Angela Hildyard  
CONTACT INFO: 416 978 4865  
angela.hildyard@utoronto.ca

DATE: December 10, 2007 for December 17, 2007

AGENDA ITEM: Health and Safety Requirements – Quarterly Report on Compliance

## **ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

Professor Hildyard has undertaken to provide the Business Board with quarterly statements with respect to the University's compliance with legal requirements in the area of health and safety. This is the fourth quarterly statement for 2007.

## **JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Business Board is responsible for monitoring health and safety compliance. This report is for information.

## **PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

Outlined above.

## **STATEMENT:**

### **1. Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) Orders**

The Ontario Ministry of Labour issued one order during this reporting period. This related to an incident at UTSC involving a Capital Projects sub-contractor. The sub-contractor's employee worked on live electrical equipment and was electrocuted incurring third degree burns to both hands resulting in the loss of a portion of his left index finger. The MOL investigation involved the sub-contracting company, the constructor, and University of Toronto Scarborough Campus. The Ministry of Labour ordered the University to not disturb the equipment for the purpose of the MOL investigation. The order was complied with.

EHS and Facilities and Services are initiating a review of the University's contractor safety processes.

## **2. Asbestos Exposure Reporting**

At the May 7, 2007 Business Board meeting I provided the Business Board with an oral, in camera report indicating that it had come to my attention that there had been a gap in the University's reports to the Ministry of Labour regarding asbestos work hours for employees. The Asbestos Regulation, enacted under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act, requires the University to report annually to the Ministry of Labour the number of asbestos work hours conducted by each University employee assigned to Type 2 and/or Type 3 asbestos work.

Environmental Health & Safety, in cooperation with Facilities and Services, the union and the relevant Joint Health & Safety Committee, has collected retrospective exposure data from each of these employees. Exposure reports for these employees will be submitted to the Ministry of Labour this month.

## **3. Joint Health and Safety Committees**

EHS is implementing an aggressive strategy, working with the committees to ensure that they meet with the appropriate frequency.

## **4. Regulatory Audits**

The CNSC conducted a Type II Inspection on September 12 and 13, 2007. The scope of the audit was the consolidated licence. Inspections were conducted in the Medical Sciences Building. The CNSC provided a draft report on September 13 and the final report is still pending. The inspection resulted in four minor non-compliance items. Radiation Protection Services submitted responses by the October 2007 due date and are addressing or have addressed the items.

## **5. Regulatory Reports/Submissions**

The CNSC Consolidated Use License Application due December 1, 2007 to renew the University's consolidated license was submitted. The term of the license is five (5) years.

## **Future Considerations**

Approximately 1400 organizations within the elementary, secondary and post secondary education sector in Ontario are insured with WSIB for Workplace Health and Safety. The organizations belong to the Education Safety Association of Ontario, designated under the WSIB Act as the Safe Workplace Association for the broad education sector.

As part of its goal of improving workplace safety, the Ministry of Labour targets the 10% of firms, within each Safe Workplace Association, with the worst safety records, based on accidents reported to WSIB, and designates them as "Last Chance". ALL Ontario Universities have, accordingly, been placed on the last Chance List since accident rates for universities are higher than those for the other members of this group.

The implications for Universities, including the University of Toronto, in being designated as Last Chance are as follows:

- WSIB determines whether the Institution is taking measures to reduce accidents. The relevant Safe Workplace Association would normally play an active role in developing and implementing measures.
- If positive measures being taken, WSIB will defer any action for one year
- If no measures being undertaken, institution referred to the MOL for additional inspections

The Universities, through COU, have decided to withdraw from the ESAO and create a Safe Workplace Association that better addresses the health and safety concerns of the post secondary sector. In the meantime, EHS, in close collaboration with all members of the University community, will continue to take a risk management approach that involves the proactive identification of risks and emerging issues, and the development and implementation of innovative, practical and sustainable processes to manage them. The University is committed to establishing and maintaining high quality health and safety processes, which support, without constraining, academic freedom and leading edge research, and that ensure a safe and healthy work, research, and study environment.

### **Summary**

In summary, based on the reports I have received through the operation of our occupational health and safety policy, and except with reference to the items described in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, to the best of my knowledge the University is in compliance with its health and safety obligations.