



Achieving Excellence

Excellence Through Education

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Safety First? I don't think so!



By John Ford

It is not cynical to say that safety is not first. It is a reality many of us know to be true but hesitate to say out loud. We fear being thought of as uncaring, profit oriented, production-minded and downright disrespectful of workers' rights. Safety is not first in our society, nor should it be.

To make this point, consider a chain saw and the notion that safety should be first. A chain saw has very dangerous exposed parts that move at incredibly high speeds. It is totally unguarded. How long it would take to amputate a limb? How easily could that happen? Of course there are much safer alternative saws that do essentially the same work. Why is safety not first? Why aren't chain saws banned from the work place?

The same can be said for a table saw, radial arm saw, band saw, and countless other such saws and other powered tools and machines on which workers have access to the dangerous moving parts. There is no shortage of injuries. **So if safety is first, why do we continue to use these tools?**

More production is the obvious answer, but it's not as simple as that. Imagine the repetitive strain injuries that would no doubt occur if all this work was done with hand tools. Then there are quality issues. However, with the proper training, procedures, personal protective equipment, supervision and maintenance, machines can be used without injury. The real challenge is to balance productivity, quality issues, risk, and need to have the appropriate emphasis on safety.

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Worker Safety Training



By Brenda Robertson

Have you fulfilled your minimum obligations?

The Ministry of Labour focus on Worker Training continues to accelerate as more Inspectors visit businesses in all industry sectors. From manufacturing to construction and from retail to healthcare your area Inspector will ask: *"Have you conducted worker training?"*

Have you ever thought about combining all the required general safety training into one day?

In most industrial environments, combining all the training into one day makes sense.

By bundling your worker safety training into one day you will save a lot of money. This allows you to budget your training dollars better by focusing training efforts department by department, month by month.

At Training Services we have bundled several of our recognized training programs and developed a Worker Safety Training Day. This one-day workshop includes: Worker rights & Responsibilities, The Occupational Health & Safety Act, Safety Near Lift Trucks & Loads, Lockout Training for Affected Workers, and WHMIS.

For more information, or to customize a program please contact Brenda Robertson (905) 873-3031, brobertson@cybertrain.on.ca

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Ministry of Labour News

Appeal Court convicts and fines Modern Niagara Toronto Inc. for a violation of the Occupational Health & Safety Act following a Crown appeal of a case involving serious face and head injuries to a worker.

On Oct. 28, 2000, a welder was helping to install new water lines to enhance existing heating & cooling systems in a high-rise office complex. While helping to remove a cap from a metal coupling, it blew off the end of a pipe and struck the welder in the face.

A Ministry of Labour investigation determined that the cap blew off as a result of a sudden release of pressurized nitrogen gas in the pipe that had been trapped after a project supervisor closed off a balancing valve.

Modern Niagara Toronto Inc. was found guilty of failing, as an employer, to ensure pressure in the pipe of the supplementary cooling system was released, as required by Section 48(1) (a) of the Construction Regulations, contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the Act.

The company was initially acquitted under the Act on September 3, 2003.

The Crown appealed and the decision was overturned on April 24, 2006.

Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada fined \$75,000 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in a fractured leg of a worker.

On March 6, 2005, a worker was operating a pallet truck when it stalled on a ramp. Another worker attempted to push it up the ramp with a forklift. The driver of the pallet truck lost control and a handle used to operate the truck swung around pinning the worker's leg against the battery pack case on the truck. This resulted in a fracture to the left leg of the worker.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the method used to move the pallet truck did not follow the manufacturer's recommended procedure, and that the worker driving

the pallet truck was not properly trained to operate it.

Abitibi-Consolidated Company of Canada pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to a worker, as required by Section 25(2)(a) of the Act.

Elmira Poultry Inc. fined \$100,000 for a violation of the Occupational Health & Safety Act that resulted in the death of a worker.

On Sept. 20, 2005, a worker was moving a machine when a live, 600-volt, overhead electrical cord got caught in the machine and resulted in the worker being fatally electrocuted. At the time of the incident, the worker was wearing wet leather work boots and was likely standing on a wet floor near a drain.

Elmira Poultry Inc. pleaded guilty, as an employer, to failing to ensure the machine was moved in such a way, and with such precautions, so as to ensure its moving did not endanger the worker's safety, as required by Section 45(a) of the Industrial Regulations, contrary to Section 25(1) (c) of the Act.

Flex-N-Gate Canada Company fined \$50,000 for a violation of the Occupational Health and Safety Act that resulted in injuries to a worker.

On Jan. 28, 2004, a worker cut 3 of 4 metal straps on a bundle of 170 large metal sheets on the floor then walked away to discard debris.

Another worker then loaded the bundle, which was held together with just 1 remaining strap, onto the forks of a forklift and began lifting the load. The sheets slid off the forks towards the first worker, who was standing about 4.9m (16ft) away. The sheets pinned the first worker's left foot to a bin used to store waste material, resulting in lacerations to the foot.

A Ministry of Labour investigation found that the cutting of 3 of 4 straps on the 313kg (5,100lbs) bundle was

done in preparation for the bundle being lifted by the forklift was part of a long-standing practice at the workplace.

Following a trial, Flex-N-Gate Canada Company was found guilty, as an employer, of:

1. Failing to ensure the sheets were moved in a way that did not endanger the worker's safety, as required by Section 45(a) of the Industrial Regulations, contrary to Section 25(1)(c) of the Act; and
2. Failing to provide information, instruction and supervision to the worker to protect the worker's health and safety contrary to section 25(2)(a) of the Act.

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Safety must be an equal partner with production, quality and costs.

Not first, but equal in all our efforts to do the work we need to do.

Ontario has set an example for the world in Pre-Start Health & Safety Review Legislation which demands a proactive professional review be done for specific high risk situations. Safety in design must be considered. Safety must be given the same planning as production and quality. To implement the review, "current applicable standards" such as Canadian Standards Association (CSA) and American National Standards Institute (ANSI) codes provide valuable guidance as to "what is reasonable" in the circumstances.

Training Services is proud to be a part of your solutions to achieving safety as an equal partner. We have a huge array of solutions to the "safety first" dilemma.

If we can help, please give us a call. (905) 873-3031 or email: jford@cybertrain.on.ca

Case Study: Upgrading Circuitry to Current CSA & ANSI Standards



By Fraser Dimma

Recently I was asked to comment on this excerpt from an engineering report: *“This press meets the requirements of CSA and ANSI codes at the time the machine was manufactured. The intent of Ontario Regulation 851 Section 7 is not to re-evaluate and upgrade compliant equipment to current standards revisions. Since the press was compliant at the time of manufacture, it is not mandated to upgrade safety circuitry to current CSA Z142 Standard and ANSI acceptance.”*

Many issues surround the above statement and must be considered.

1. CSA Z142 requires that upgrades to existing presses meet the current standard requirements. Section 1 suggests an aggressive plan be put in place to address all CSA Z142 issues, especially control reliable safety circuits and components that are dual-channel with monitoring. This standard applies to the control of all energy sources and was to be completed by Dec. 2004.
2. Both CSA Z142 and ANSI B11.1, B11.2, B11.3 are machine specific and prescriptive in their safeguarding requirements. They do not allow “grandfathering” of existing presses. Section 7 of Regulation 7 requires the use of CSA Z432 and ANSI B11.19 standards when evaluating presses for compliance to Section 24, 25, 26, & 28 of Reg. 851.
3. In practical terms, being in compliance with CSA Z142 or ANSI codes ensures a dual-channel circuit to stop ALL hazardous energy sources (mechanical, pneumatic, hydraulic, gravity).
4. If a serious accident involving the press had been evaluated using the quote in the above statement, MOL charges could include *“failing to maintain the machine resulting in a serious injury.”* Since there would be no redundancy or monitoring of the function of the safety circuit components, deterioration of performance of valves, relays or protective elements would go unnoticed.
5. Compliance to Section 24, 25, 26, 26 of Reg 851 cannot be achieved by creative interpretation of CSA and ANSI codes. Physical changes must be made to the circuits and hardware on older presses to achieve compliance. Certain OEMs of presses have recognized this and are taking a proactive role by releasing upgrade packages to address compliance.

For more information, please contact Fraser Dimma (905) 873-3031, or email fdimma@cybertrain.on.ca

For details
including:

Course Outline
Registration Form
and Pricing

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Fall Training Sessions

W.H.M.I.S. Worker Training (3-Hour Workshop)

Prevent fires, dermatitis and serious illnesses. Educate and motivate workers to comply with PPE & safe use of chemicals. Comply with annual training review obligations. Ideal initial training for new workers and refresher for experienced workers and trainers. *Morning sessions and afternoon sessions available!*

Milverton Nov. 21 Mississauga Nov. 22, Cambridge Nov. 23

Lock Out Train The Trainer (1-Day Course)

Learn how to teach, train and test for Lock Out Competency. Know the key requirements of worker training. Explore relevant codes including the new Z460. Course includes comprehensive training material such as “Hazardous Energy Control” and “ Stop, Block, Lock and Live” DVDs, sample theory and practical tests, trainer and worker manuals. *One session only this fall.*

Cambridge Nov. 29

Z1000 Occupational Health & Safety Management System (1-Day Course)

An intensive hands-on overview geared towards Health & Safety Managers and Coordinators as well as J.H.S.C. members who are responsible for auditing. It will also greatly benefit Plant Managers and Human Resources Managers. *One session only this fall.*

Cambridge Nov. 28

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**A three-legged dog walks into a saloon in the Old West.
He slides up to the bar and announces:
"I'm looking for the man who shot my paw."**

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You will also receive:

- ✓ The latest Ministry of Labour News,
- ✓ Detailed training information, and
- ✓ Specials not available anywhere else.

If you would like to become an E-NEWS member, please drop us a line and asked to be added! This is completely free of charge, and you may stop at any time.

To join drop us a line: info@cybertrain.on.ca

Ponderings



A bird in the hand is always safer than one overhead.

A closed mouth gathers no foot.

A man of quality does not fear a woman seeking equality.

A problem cannot be solved using the same level of thinking that created it.

Afternoon: that part of the day we spend worrying about how we wasted the morning.



He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

**A lot of money is tainted:
'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.**



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