

Agriculture Safety Checklist

A Guide for Farmers, Ranchers,
and Workers



WorkSafeTM

WORKERS' COMPENSATION BOARD OF BC

www.WorkSafebc.com

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more information on the regulations or to ask for a WCB officer to help you with health and safety concerns, call the WCB's Prevention Information Line at 604 276-3100 or call toll-free at 1 888 621-7233 (SAFE).

For information on registering your farm and ranch with the WCB, call the WCB's Employer Service Centre at 604 244-6181 or toll-free at 1 888 922-2768. To register online, visit the WCB's web site at <www.WorkSafebc.com>.

For advice and help with the regulations, call the independent Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (FARSHA) at 604 881-6078 or toll-free 1 877 533-1789 in Langley, B.C.

INTRODUCTION

About 800 farm and ranch workers are injured every year in work-related accidents in B.C. Workers fall from ladders, are stepped on by animals, struck by falling objects, and mangled by machinery. On average, 4 agricultural workers die from their injuries every year.

In 1993, farms and ranches came under special Workers' Compensation Board (WCB) health and safety regulations — *Regulations for Occupational Health and Safety in Agriculture* — to protect workers from injury and disease. These cover general requirements on matters such as health and safety programs and the condition of the workplace, as well as hazards specific to agriculture.

In addition, some of the general health and safety regulations that apply to other industries in B.C. also apply to agriculture. These are in the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. They include Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) requirements in Part 5 and Occupational First Aid requirements in Part 33.

In 1999, amendments to the *Workers Compensation Act* came into effect. These apply to all sectors, including agriculture. They address matters such as workplace responsibilities, worker participation in health and safety, and due diligence.

The following checklist covers some common agricultural safety concerns and WCB regulations that apply to farms and ranches. If all your answers on the checklist are “yes”, you probably have a safe farm or ranch, but it does not necessarily mean your farm or ranch is in compliance with all the regulations.



HEALTH AND SAFETY REGULATIONS

	yes	no	target date
Are you aware that farms and ranches in B.C. are covered by health and safety regulations?	☐	☐	
Do you know where to get copies of these regulations?	☐	☐	
Do you know where to call for answers about the regulations?	☐	☐	
Are you aware that the Farm and Ranch Safety and Health Association (FARSHA) will provide advice and assistance?	☐	☐	



CONDITIONS OF PLACES OF EMPLOYMENT

Are tools, equipment, and machinery safe to use?	☐	☐	
Are workers trained to do their jobs?	☐	☐	
Are bridges and culverts under roadways on the farm or ranch strong enough to support the heaviest load that will cross them?	☐	☐	
Is there enough clean drinking water for workers?	☐	☐	
Are workplaces being maintained to avoid slipping hazards?	☐	☐	
Is there a method to protect workers from falling when they are working at heights, and have they been trained to use it?	☐	☐	



HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Are substances that might harm workers marked with signs or symbols?	☐	☐	
Have workers been told what to do if a harmful substance spills?	☐	☐	

Does everyone working around anhydrous ammonia wear hand and eye protection?

yes no target date

☐☐

Are showers or hoses available so workers can wash immediately if they are exposed to chemicals that might hurt their eyes or skin?

☐☐

Have workers been told about any infectious organisms they might contact?

☐☐

PESTICIDES

Are pesticides for use in the fields registered in Canada and labelled according to the *Pest Control Products Act* (Canada)?

☐☐

Are pesticides used according to the instructions on the label?

☐☐

Are pesticides used according to good application practice?

☐☐

Are all workers who mix, load, or apply moderately or very toxic pesticides *over the age of 16*?

☐☐

Are all workers who clean or repair the equipment used for pesticides *over the age of 16*?

☐☐

Do these workers hold applicator certificates from the B.C. Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks?

☐☐

Do they wear the right protective clothing and equipment?

☐☐

Are washing facilities available for workers who mix, load, and apply pesticides?

☐☐

Before any fumigants or other moderately or very toxic pesticides are applied, are warning signs posted where workers enter the area?

☐☐

Has the employer taken precautions to prevent the drift or spread of pesticides?

yes no target date

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Does the employer keep a record of the following:

- Type of crop treated
- Number of acres or hectares of crop treated
- Pesticides used
- Rate of application
- Location of crop treated
- Date and time at which the application was completed
- Date on which workers were allowed to enter the field

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CONFINED SPACES

If a worker must enter a tank, silo, storage bin, pit, or other confined space that may contain harmful gases:

- Have safe work procedures been developed and has the worker been told what to do?
- Have steps been taken, including tests, to ensure the air is safe to breathe with an oxygen concentration of 19.5% or more?

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If the air is unsafe, has the confined space been ventilated or cleaned, and then retested before workers enter?

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Is a worker entering a confined space in communication with another worker who stays near the entrance?

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Is a warning sign posted at the entrance to:

- A silo or similar structure?
- A pit or tank containing liquid manure?

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PERSONAL PROTECTIVE CLOTHING & EQUIPMENT

	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>target date</i>
Is the right personal protective clothing and equipment provided to workers?	☐	☐	
Do workers wear leg protection while using a chainsaw?	☐	☐	
Do workers wear hand and arm protection if materials are likely to cut or scratch?	☐	☐	
Is the respirator:			
• The right type?	☐	☐	
• In good working order?	☐	☐	
Have workers been told how to use and maintain the respirator?	☐	☐	
When a worker uses a respirator that seals with the face, is that seal effective?	☐	☐	
Has the employer used engineering controls to keep noise below the permitted level?	☐	☐	



TOOLS, MACHINERY, AND EQUIPMENT

Is each power take-off (PTO) shaft guarded by a master shield?	☐	☐	
Are guards in place at:			
• Mesh or nip-points of all power-driven gears, belts, chains, sheaves, pulleys, sprockets, and idlers?	☐	☐	
• All revolving shafts including protruding bolts, keys, or set screws?	☐	☐	
If a farm tractor was manufactured after Jan. 1, 1985, does it have roll-over protection?	☐	☐	
Do all tractors with ROPS have seatbelts?	☐	☐	

Are the seatbelts used whenever the tractor is moving or equipment is unstable?

yes no target date

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Are workers operating mobile equipment properly instructed and capable?

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Are brakes on mobile equipment working well?

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Do workers using orchard ladders receive instruction first?

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Are ladders inspected before each use and replaced or repaired immediately if found to be faulty?

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Do the auger conveyors have guards wherever moving parts might touch workers?

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ANIMAL HANDLING

Is there an escape route when workers are around potentially dangerous animals?

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FIRST AID

Are signs posted that explain how to call for first aid or medical aid:

- Designated first aid attendant
- B.C. Ambulance
- Poison Control Centre

Are “notice to workers” signs posted, informing workers how to report a death, an accident, or an injury to the WCB?

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Does the employer have the proper first aid equipment and supplies for the number of workers (including those in the fields) per shift?

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Are first aid records kept up to date and confidential?

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Are there written procedures for taking injured workers to medical treatment (the nearest hospital)?

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WORKPLACE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INFORMATION SYSTEM (WHMIS)

	<i>yes</i>	<i>no</i>	<i>target date</i>
Do workers know the hazards of the products being used?	☐	☐	
Have workers been trained in safe work procedures for each hazardous product in use?	☐	☐	
Do workers know how to protect themselves?	☐	☐	
Do workers know what to do in case of a spill?	☐	☐	
Is a Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) present for each controlled product?	☐	☐	
Do workers know where the written work procedures and the MSDS are kept?	☐	☐	
If workers don't understand the written work procedures or the MSDS, is someone available to help?	☐	☐	
Have any problems with the labels or MSDS been reported to the supplier and the WCB?	☐	☐	
Are workplace labels and symbols being used correctly?	☐	☐	

WCB Offices

Visit our web site at <www.WorkSafebc.com>

Abbotsford

2774 Trethewey Street V2T 3R1
Phone 604 276-3100
1 800 292-2219
Fax 604 556-2077

Burnaby

450 – 6450 Roberts Street V5G 4E1
Phone 604 276-3100
1 888 621-7233
Fax 604 232-5950

Coquitlam

104 – 3020 Lincoln Avenue V3B 6B4
Phone 604 276-3100
1 888 967-5377
Fax 604 232-1946

Courtenay

801 30th Street V9N 8G6
Phone 250 334-8765
1 800 663-7921
Fax 250 334-8757

Kamloops

321 Battle Street V2C 6P1
Phone 250 371-6003
1 800 663-3935
Fax 250 371-6031

Kelowna

110 – 2045 Enterprise Way V1Y 9T5
Phone 250 717-4313
1 888 922-4466
Fax 250 717-4380

Nanaimo

4980 Wills Road V9T 6C6
Phone 250 751-8040
1 800 663-7382
Fax 250 751-8046

Nelson

524 Kootenay Street V1L 6B4
Phone 250 352-2824
1 800 663-4962
Fax 250 352-1816

North Vancouver

400 – 224 Esplanade W. V7M 1A4
Phone 604 276-3100
1 888 875-6999
Fax 604 232-1558

Prince George

1066 Vancouver Street V2L 5M4
Phone 250 561-3700
1 800 663-6623
Fax 250 561-3710

Surrey

100 – 5500 152 Street V3S 5J9
Phone 604 276-3100
1 888 621-7233
Fax 604 232-7077

Terrace

4450 Lakelse Avenue V8G 1P2
Phone 250 615-6605
1 800 663-3871
Fax 250 615-6633

Victoria

4514 Chatterton Way V8X 5H2
Phone 250 881-3418
1 800 663-7593
Fax 250 881-3482

Head Office / Richmond

Prevention Information Line:
Phone 604 276-3100
1 888 621-7233 (621-SAFE)

Administration:
6951 Westminster Highway
Phone 604 273-2266

Mailing Address:
PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal
Vancouver BC V6B 5L5

After Hours

Health & Safety Emergency
604 273-7711
1 866 922-4357 (WCB-HELP)

R11/04

