

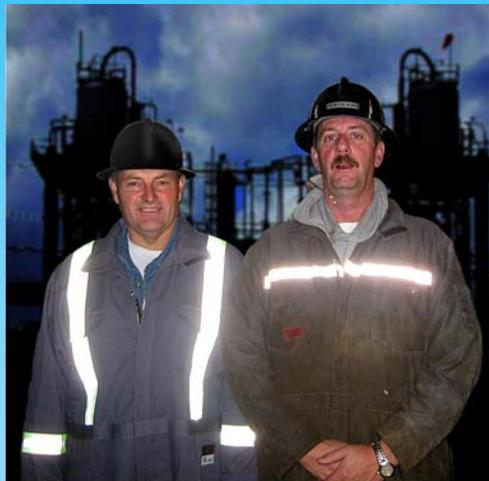
Reflective Coveralls a Hit!

Hundreds of oil and gas workers in Western Canada are more visible following the redesign of their coveralls

Earlier this year, Trican Well Service Ltd. started distributing newly designed coveralls to its 1,300 employees. They work in 13 centres from Estevan, Sask. to Fort Nelson, B.C., providing a variety of engineering services to oil and gas exploration companies.

“This has provided a major improvement in visibility for our workers,” says Steve Redmond, general manager HR and HS&E with Calgary-based Trican. “We started distributing them in January, and to date we have given about 1,400 pairs to our employees. We’re replacing the old ones as they need replacing and giving them to our new employees as they begin working with us.”

Trican has always issued its workers reflective vests to be worn when they are working in high traffic areas. Although many Trican personnel work at oil and gas sites, far from traffic, others



After

Before



After

Before

perform maintenance operations along the roads leading to the oil and gas locations.

“It was in these situations that I was concerned because the employee had to put on one more piece of PPE before going to work, and at times this step was missed. They didn’t wear the vests,” Redmond explains. “By putting the reflective strip directly onto the coveralls, we could ensure they would be seen on the side of the road and be more safe.”

Trican was influenced by the BC Workers Compensation Board requirements when setting out to re-design their current garments. Time was spent collaborating with both their garment manufacturer and 3M before deciding on the final design. The new design helps to make workers more visible with an increased amount of reflective material.

“The 3M material has boosted visibility of our workers significantly,” Redmond says. “With the material on the coveralls themselves, it will help keep people safe.”



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Bill C-45

Criminal Liability of Corporations: Occupational Health and Safety

A new law has been passed that will hold directors, officers and organizations across Canada criminally liable for workplace health and safety.

Bill C-45, the Criminal Code amendments, establish a new legal duty on all corporate decision makers “to take reasonable steps to prevent bodily harm to ...any person, arising from work”

Bill C-45 received Royal Assent, November 7, 2003.

What is different about this law and current health and safety legislation currently in place?

Presently, where a worker is seriously injured or dies while doing work, the employer can be charged under various provincial laws dealing with Occupational Health and Safety. Even though these laws allow for serious fines, such charges are seen as less serious than charges under the Canadian Criminal Code. As a result of changes recently made to the Code, the same safety infractions can now lead to charges for the employer under the Criminal Code. As well, those who are responsible for directing the work of others are under a legal duty to take reasonable steps to prevent harm to any person arising from work. The usual penalties for a convicted organization include fines to any level for serious offenses, and up to \$100,000 for each lesser conviction. There is a range of penalties for convicted leaders as well.

What is the Result of this Bill for Supervisors and Managers?

This Bill applies to everyone who undertakes, or has authority, to direct how another person does work or performs a task. Company Supervisors, Officers and Directors potentially face criminal charges. The potential maximum penalty is life imprisonment. This new Bill facilitates criminal prosecutions for flagrant and willful violations of occupational health and laws/regulations.

What do Supervisors and Managers need to do to minimize risk of criminal prosecution?

Due diligence in managing health and safety in the workplace is the key. Promote a safe work ethic in your workplace. Take reasonable steps to protect workers and the public. Take remedial action when aware of unsafe practices and conditions through workplace audits and reports of unsafe conditions. Inform workers of their right to refuse work that is considered unsafe or dangerous. If you are a manager or supervisor, educate yourself on your responsibilities NOW, and understand the hazards in your workplace.

Do not ignore health and safety concerns that arise in your workplace or that are raised by your work force. Do not turn blind eye to substandard conditions or unsafe work practices.

**Besides,
it's the right thing to do.**



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February 6-8, 2006
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www.sasksafety.org

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NS Safety Council Show

March 22-24, 2006
Halifax, NS
www.nssafety.ns.ca

April

Association Quebecoise du Transport – Quebec Transportation Association

Annual Conference
April 9-11, 2006
Quebec City, QC
www.aqtr.qc.ca

9th Annual CTI – DND 2006 Military Textiles & Personal Equipment Trade Show

April 19-20, 2006
Ottawa, On
www.textiles.ca

May

Health & Safety 2005, IAPA

May 1-3, 2006
Toronto, ON
www.iapa.on.ca

Industrial Health and Safety Exposition

May 3-4, 2006
Fort McMurray, AB
www.petroleumshow.com

Petroleum Industry Annual Safety Seminar

May 3-5, 2006
Banff, AB
www.piass.org

Western Conference on Safety

May 8-9, 2006
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www.safetycouncil.bc.ca

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May 9-11, 2006
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