# OHS Insider Newsletter – October 2026




October’s OHS Insider focuses on how changing business conditions, seasonal work and operational decisions can create new safety risks, even when an employer’s existing OHS program hasn’t changed.

A major feature examines the safety implications of tariff and supply-chain pressures. Cost reductions, staffing changes, alternative suppliers, substitute materials and pressure to maintain production can all alter workplace hazards. The message for OHS managers is to treat significant business and operational changes as triggers for reassessing hazards and verifying that existing controls remain effective.

The newsletter also examines seasonal ergonomics. Cooler temperatures, heavier clothing, wet or uneven surfaces, increased production demands and repetitive seasonal work can all increase musculoskeletal risk. These issues affect not just outdoor workers, but manufacturing, warehousing and office employees experiencing year-end workload increases.

The October Ask the Expert also looks at chemical manufacturing and storage in Alberta, highlighting how OHS, fire code, WHMIS, environmental and dangerous-goods requirements can overlap. Safety Data Sheets are an important starting point, but employers may also need to assess ventilation, fire protection, spill containment, incompatible-material segregation and the suitability of the facility

itself.

Key takeaways for OHS managers include:

- **Treat operational change as a hazard-assessment trigger.** Staffing reductions, new processes, alternate materials and different suppliers may invalidate assumptions in an existing assessment.
- **Don’t let cost pressure weaken critical controls.** Cheaper PPE, equipment or substitute materials still need to provide equivalent protection.
- **Watch fatigue and workload.** Doing more with fewer people can increase errors, reduced concentration and unsafe shortcuts.
- **Reassess seasonal ergonomic risks.** Cold, restrictive clothing, wet surfaces, repetitive work and production peaks can significantly change physical demands.
- **Protect the safety supply chain.** Identify critical PPE and safety equipment, qualified alternative suppliers and minimum inventory requirements before shortages occur.
- **Review chemical changes before introduction.** A new chemical, cleaning product or storage arrangement may trigger WHMIS, fire, environmental, transportation and OHS requirements.
- **Look beyond physical hazards.** Economic uncertainty, restructuring and workplace conflict can also affect psychological health and safety.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW THIS MONTH

https://ohsinsider.com/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/Colman-11254339.mp3

## IMPORTANT DATES

**October 7—Ontario**—Deadline to apply for CEPG funding.

**October 9—British Columbia**—Deadline to comment on proposed new OHS workplace harassment and violence regulations.

**October 9—Newfoundland & Labrador**—Deadline to comment on privacy law review.

**October 10—Québec**—Deadline to comment on proposed OHS regulations for bioaerosols, workstation lighting, and confined space decontamination.

**October 14—Nationwide**—Deadline to comment on proposed changes to *Species At Risk Act* (SARA) Protected List.

SEE MORE…

## THIS MONTH'S CONTENT IN FULL

- **Does a Manufacturing Plant Have a 'Fiduciary Duty' to Protect Neighbours from Pollution?**
- **Take 7 Steps to Ensure U.S. Tariffs Don't Compromise Workers' Safety**
- **Ergonomic Safety in Seasonal Work Settings**
- **OHS Ask The Expert – Chemical Manufacturing and Storage Compliance in Alberta**
- **Month In Review**

## ADDITIONAL TOOLS AND READING

**Get a handy summary of the PME requirements in each part of Canada.**

**How to implement a 10-step Excavations Safety and Compliance Game Plan at your workplace.**

**How to implement a legally sound Airborne Contaminant Exposure Control Plan at your workplace.**

**How to implement an effective First Aid Compliance Game Plan at your workplace.**

**How to implement a legally sound Return to Work Compliance Game Plan for injured workers.**

**How to implement an effective Powered Mobile Equipment**

**Operation Policy at your workplace.**