
Recognition of the Ontario Working at Heights Training Program Standard

OHS information for employers and workers

This bulletin provides information about Alberta's recognition of the Ontario Working at Heights Training Program for workers who work across Canada or have relocated to work in Alberta, and employers that might hire them.

KEY INFORMATION

- This recognition does not create new training requirements for fall protection under Alberta's occupational health and safety (OHS) legislation.
- Ontario's Working at Heights Training Program meets Alberta's basic requirements for fall protection training.
- Employers remain responsible for ensuring training complies with Alberta's OHS legislation and includes work site-specific hazards and procedures.

What is the Ontario Working at Heights Training Program?

[Ontario's Program Standard for Working at Heights Training](#) is a structured, provincially mandated training program for workers that establishes required learning outcomes for fall protection training delivered in Ontario. The program includes theory-based and practical instruction focused on, but not limited to:

- fall hazard awareness,
- anchor points,
- rescue planning,
- personal fall protection equipment,
- safe use of fall protection systems, and
- demonstration of worker competency.

The program establishes standardized delivery requirements including instructor and training provider criteria, as well as a required three-year training refresher cycle. Additionally, the training provider must be approved by Ontario's Chief Prevention Officer to deliver an approved working at heights training

program. Upon successful completion of the course, workers are issued a certificate.

How does the Ontario program relate to Alberta OHS legislation?

In Alberta, under the OHS Act, the employer is responsible to ensure workers are suitably trained and competent to do their work in a healthy and safe manner. The OHS Act defines competent as:

(d) "competent" in relation to a person means adequately qualified, suitably trained and with sufficient experience to safely perform work without supervision or with only a minimal degree of supervision

Specific requirements for fall protection training are found in Part 9, Section 141 of the OHS Code. The fall protection training must include:

- Alberta's current legislation pertaining to fall protection,
- fall protection plan,
- fall protection methods required at a work site,
- fall hazard identification,
- assessment and selection of specific anchors that may be used,
- correct use of connecting hardware,
- effects of falls on the body,
 - max arresting force,
 - purpose of shock and energy absorbers,
 - swing fall and
 - free fall,
- pre-use inspection,
- work site specific emergency response procedures,
 - practice inspecting, fitting, adjusting and connecting fall protection systems, components,
 - emergency response procedures, and
 - information on work site specific fall hazards and steps to eliminate or control those hazards.

In Alberta, the employer determines who delivers the training or whether training can be delivered in house. Workers who have taken Ontario's Working at Heights Training Program meet the basic training requirements in Section 141 of the OHS Code, apart from:

- the requirements for training on the review of current Alberta OHS legislation, and
- work site specific hazards, methods and procedures.

What is not mandatory in Alberta?

While the Ontario Working at Heights Training Program mandates who may deliver the training and the requirements for instruction, Alberta's OHS legislation does not mandate how fall protection training is delivered, does not speak to the qualifications of training providers and does not require refresher training.

What does this recognition mean for employers and workers?

This recognition reduces the need for workers who have completed the Ontario Working at Heights Training program to repeat training to work in Alberta, potentially saving time and resources for both employers and workers.

Employers in Alberta remain responsible for ensuring that training meets Alberta's legislative requirements and addresses work site-specific fall hazards and measures to eliminate or control the hazards.

For questions regarding Alberta's recognition of the Ontario Working at Heights Training Program, contact ohsreview@gov.ab.ca.

For more information

Ontario Working at Heights Training Program
ontario.ca/page/program-standard-working-heights-training

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Alberta toll-free

- 1-866-415-8690

Edmonton region

- 780-415-8690

Deaf or hard of hearing (TTY)

- 1-800-232-7215 (Alberta toll-free)
- 780-427-9999 (Edmonton region)

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alberta.ca/file-complaint-online

Call the OHS Contact Centre if you have concerns that involve immediate danger to a person on a work site.

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alberta.ca/ohs-complaints-incident

Website

alberta.ca/ohs

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