

Construction Project Site Supervisor Responsibilities

The Workplace Safety and Health Act supports every worker's right to a safe and healthy workplace. It assigns responsibility to people in the workplace for creating and maintaining a safe and healthy workplace, and for working co-operatively to prevent workplace illness and injury.

Project Managers

Project managers (often referred to as site superintendents, job captains and other similar titles) are assigned by an owner, employer or prime contractor to be their main representative on a worksite. In this role, project managers are responsible for ensuring that the owner, employer or prime contractor's duties under the *WSH Act* are fulfilled. They must understand and enforce the various internal safety and health procedures of the party who hired them, and form links with the various contractors and sub-contractors working on the project.

In addition, the project manager can be seen as the main supervisor of a project, and must also perform the safety and health duties of a supervisor.

Project managers are given great responsibility in making sure that a project is successful. One of the key components of this responsibility is to ensure the safety and health of everyone involved.

Project managers must ensure the following legal safety and health responsibilities are fulfilled:

- Co-ordinating, organizing and overseeing the work on the project to ensure the safety and health of workers and others who may be affected by activities on the project (when acting for the prime contractor, this includes co-ordinating the safety and health programs of employers working on the project)
- Effectively implementing the owner, employer or prime contractor's safety system, or developing such a system, to ensure everyone working on the project fulfils their legal safety and health responsibilities
- Co-operating with other people on workplace safety and health matters
- Complying with the *Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulation*.

General Duties under the *WSH Act*

Employers: Since they have the greatest degree of authority and control over the operations of the workplace, employers also have the greatest degree of responsibility for workplace safety and health. Employers' legal safety and health responsibilities include:

- Taking necessary precautions to ensure the safety, health and welfare of workers
- Providing and maintaining a safe workplace, equipment, tools and systems
- Ensuring all workers and supervisors are aware of hazards in the workplace as well as precautions necessary for their protection
- Providing workers with competent supervision
- Providing the necessary training to protect workers' safety and health before they begin a new job

(see over)



- Taking necessary precautions to ensure that other people are not exposed to safety or health risks due to activities of the workplace
- Consulting and co-operating with the workplace safety and health committee or representative
- Co-operating with other people on workplace safety and health matters
- Complying with the *Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulation*.

As the employer's main representative on the worksite, the project manager must ensure that these responsibilities are fulfilled.

Prime contractors are legally responsible for:

- Setting up an effective system to ensure that everyone involved in work at the project meets their legal safety and health obligations
- Co-ordinating, organizing and monitoring work on the project to ensure reasonable and practical precautions are in place to effectively control safety and health hazards
- Co-ordinating the safety and health programs of contracted employers
- Complying with the *Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulation*.

In addition, the prime contractor is responsible for establishing a workplace safety and health committee at a construction site, if:

- Twenty (20) or more workers are involved, or are expected to be involved, in work on a construction project
- The project is expected to require more than 90 days to complete.

The project manager must ensure that these requirements are implemented.

Project managers, as **supervisors**, have the responsibility and authority to oversee a group of workers within a workplace. The legal safety and health duties of supervisors include:

- Taking necessary precautions to protect the safety and health of workers under their supervision
- Ensuring that workers comply with safety and health procedures and use safety equipment, clothing, and devices
- Advising workers of safety and health hazards in the work area
- Co-operating with the workplace safety and health committee or representative
- Co-operating with other people on workplace safety and health matters
- *Manitoba Workplace Safety and Health Act and Regulation*.

Reference to legal requirements under workplace safety and health legislation:

- The Workplace Safety and Health Act W210.
- General Duties: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 2
- Workplace Safety and Health Committees and Representatives: Manitoba Regulation 217/2006 Part 3

Additional workplace safety and health information available at: safemanitoba.com

Revised: February 2017

Last Reviewed/Revised: January 2009

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