



Occupational Health and Safety
BULLETIN
Occupational Health and Safety
Administrative Penalties

The Nova Scotia government recently introduced regulations, effective January 15, 2010, that will allow administrative penalties on violations of occupational health and safety laws. These penalties are assigned following workplace inspections where violations of health and safety laws are found. Employees, supervisors and employers will be covered under this legislation. If people are following the occupational health and safety legislation, there will be no penalties.

The administrative penalty system is intended to act as an additional deterrent to encourage compliance with existing occupational health and safety laws. The penalty system is a tool used as an alternative to prosecution, which could have a more serious impact on businesses, the courts and the provincial prosecution system.

Penalties imposed on employers and supervisors will be larger than those imposed on employees and the penalty will increase if it is a repeated offence. The penalties will range. For example, if there is no injury, the employee will be required to pay \$100.00, the supervisor will be required to pay \$250.00, and the employer will be required to pay \$500.00. If there is an injury or potential for an injury the penalties can increase to \$200.00 for the employee, \$500.00 for the supervisor, and \$1,000.00 for the employer.

Penalties can be levied on a wide variety occupational health and safety issues: such as failure to post orders or minutes in the workplace; failure to provide respiratory protective equipment; failure to train staff on safety procedures; failure to properly guard or lock-out equipment, to failure to prevent violence in the workplace.

For more information, you can check out the following website for the regulation & frequently asked questions: <http://www.gov.ns.ca/lwd/healthandsafety/>

***For questions or more information on this or any
Occupational Health and Safety concern:
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