



# WorkSafeBC Summer 2024 Update

## Occupational First Aid Regulatory Change

WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors has approved amendments to Part 3 of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, relating to occupational first aid (OFA). These amendments take effect November 1, 2024.

To assist you in preparing for the new requirements, WorkSafeBC is sharing information about the new workplace first aid curriculum and providing additional resources to help you understand the first aid regulatory changes.

For detailed information, please see the following on WorkSafeBC's website:

- [Preliminary OHS Guidelines for Part 3 - Occupational First Aid](#)
- [Backgrounder: Occupational first aid regulatory changes](#)
- [First aid requirements \(web page\)](#)

## CSA-ALIGNED CURRICULUM OPENS ON JULY 2

Training providers may start offering the new CSA-aligned curriculum as of July 2, 2024. Curriculum opening means that training providers will have access to the new curriculum. Many providers will need time to prepare the new courses before they can offer them to the public. First aid attendants are free to take the new course curriculum from [an approved training provider](#) any time after July 2. However, employers intending to use intermediate attendants in advance of November 1 must comply with the new regulation.

WorkSafeBC is still in the process of reviewing and approving courses for some equivalency providers. Please consult with your training provider to ensure you're registering for an approved course.

## OFA Certificates

All OFA certificates are still valid until their expiry date. After October 31, active OFA certificates will become equivalent to basic, intermediate, and advanced certificates.

This means there will be OFA certificates expiring after the regulatory changes come into effect November 1, 2024. For example, an OFA 2 certificate issued April 9, 2024, will be valid until April 9, 2027.

## OFA Training

Training providers who currently offer the WorkSafeBC OFA courses will no longer offer them after August 31, 2024. Starting September 1, 2024, they will exclusively offer CSA-aligned programs.

# NEW AND UPCOMING RESOURCES ON WORKSAFEBC.COM

## Updated OHS Guidelines and Backgrounder

WorkSafeBC develops OHS Guidelines to assist in the application and interpretation of changes to the OHS Regulation. They recently posted the preliminary revised [OHS Guidelines for Part 3 - Occupational First Aid](#). A draft version of these guidelines was posted for consultation in April 2024. Feedback from interested parties was incorporated into this preliminary revision.

WorkSafeBC has also updated the [Backgrounder: Occupational first aid regulatory changes](#) to reflect the preliminary guidelines.

## Workplace First Aid Assessment Worksheet

Effective November 1, employers will have a duty to establish their workplace first aid requirements in consultation with their workers. Employers will need to complete a written first aid assessment for each workplace.

This written assessment will help employers determine the appropriate first aid services needed to ensure prompt first aid treatment and transport to a medical facility. We are publishing a worksheet to document the minimum and additional first aid services required for your workplace.

You can find the worksheet on WorkSafeBC's [First aid requirements page](#) in early July.

## Frequently Asked Questions

In response to questions WorkSafeBC frequently receives from employers and first aid attendants, they are developing an FAQ on the upcoming changes to occupational first aid requirements. The FAQ includes key changes to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation, outlines what kind of vehicles are acceptable as emergency transport, and when you may need to develop first aid procedures that account for hospital closures and diversions.

You can find the FAQ on WorkSafeBC's [First aid requirements page](#) in early July.

## Video Resource

WorkSafeBC is currently developing a video resource to provide you with detailed information regarding the changes. The video will be available in Fall 2024. Topics include changes to first aid assessments; training and credentials; equipment requirements; and workplace factors (including remote and less accessible workplaces).

**For more information on the upcoming changes to First Aid, visit [worksafebc.com](https://worksafebc.com)**

