LEGISLATION CHANGES FOR

First Aid

On January 1, 2021, changes to Part 5 First Aid of the *Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations* of the Northwest Territories (NWT) went into effect, and February 12, 2021, in Nunavut (NU).

Changes were made to align with new Canadian safety standards formed to harmonize first aid practices at work sites across Canada.

To help with the transition WSCC has developed two Codes of Practice (COP):

- **First Aid Kits**
- **First Aid Training**

What does this involve?

Employers will need to update their first aid kits, and training agencies their training materials and courses, to meet the requirements of the amended *OHS Regulations* and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards.

What is included in the First Aid Kits COP?

- Minimum kit requirements according to kit classification and number of workers.
- Information about kit containers.
- Guidance with first aid risk assessment.

Is a first aid risk assessment important?

Yes, guidelines on first aid risk assessment in the *First Aid Kits COP* will help employers select:

- Quantity and type of first aid kits.
- Quantity and level of training of first aid attendants needed at the work site.

How long do we have?

A one year transition period; up to January 1, 2022, for NWT and February 12, 2022, for NU, allows time for suppliers and employers to use and update their first aid kits.

Training agencies, however, were required to update their first aid training for January 1, 2021 in NWT and for February 12, 2021 in NU.

Will my first aid certificate still be valid?

Your current valid first aid certificate will be recognized as valid until its date of expiry.

Under Section 60 (5)(6) of the OHS Regulations amendment;

- Level 1 Qualification is valid as Intermediate.
- Level 2 Qualification is valid as Advanced.

What are some of the other changes?

- Changes to definitions.
- Inclusion of the CSA standards.
- Addition of first aid risk assessment.
- Changes to the classification and content of first aid kits.

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Relevant Legislation

NWT & NU OHS Amendments for First Aid

CSA Z1220-17 First Aid Kits for the Workplace

CSA Z1210-17 First Aid Training for the Workplace: Curriculum and Quality Management for Training Agencies