

WSCC Workplace Inspections



All employers are legally required to maintain a safe workplace by meeting the standards set out in the *Safety Act(s)* and *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations (OHS Regulations)*. These Acts help to protect the health and safety of workers and employers in Nunavut and the Northwest Territories. WSCC is the arm's length government agency responsible for making sure that employers meet their legal responsibilities.

The WSCC conducts over 1,000 inspections annually to ensure the safety of northern workplaces. During an inspection, a trained Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Inspector will visit your worksite and assess work practices. Inspections can result in directions or orders that detail the corrective actions that the employer needs to complete by an agreed upon date to protect the health and safety of people at the worksite. Inspections can also provide positive observations and feedback to employers.

4 Reasons for Inspection

Scheduled Inspection – The most common type of inspection, and happens when your company is selected for an inspection, or an employer has requested a visit from the WSCC.

Focused Inspection – A particular risk identified by the WSCC that employers should be aware of. For example, a topic based on overall injury rates or a change to legislation that impacts your particular industry.

Referrals – These referrals typically come from a *Report of Unsafe Work*, or an *Employers Report of Injury*. WSCC's prevention team will do an inspection every time a report is received.

Follow Up – These inspections happen when there are outstanding items from a past inspection or directions. These inspections are often based on requests from an employer for additional support to resolve the safety concern.

Definitions

Observations – Anything noteworthy that the WSCC Inspector sees in your workplace. Observations could include positive feedback, areas that could use improvement, or details describing imminent danger.

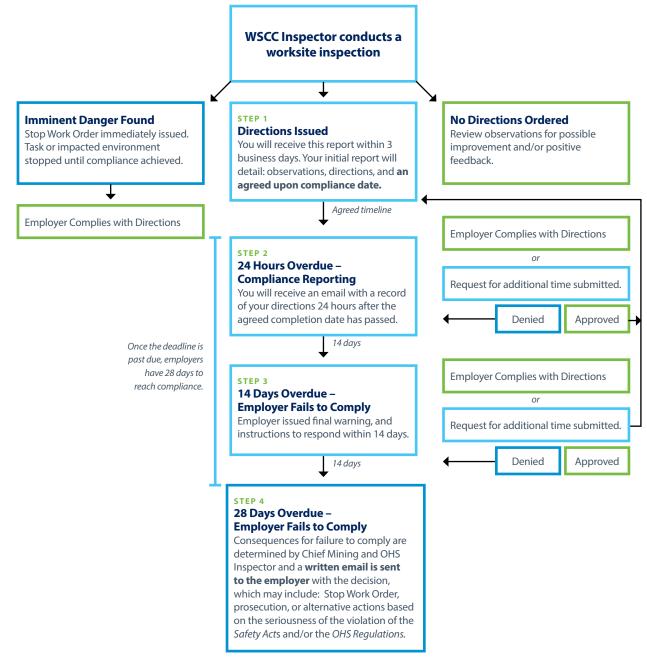
Directions – Directions (sometimes referred to as orders) outline areas where an employer is not adequately meeting safety legislation. They are clearly labeled on your inspection report, and will include the word "shall" along with a cited safety legislation that employers must comply with.

Imminent Danger – A situation or circumstance that poses clear and serious risk to one or more workers' health and safety.

Compliance– An employer following what is required under the Nunavut and Northwest Territories *Safety Act(s)* and *OHS Regulations*.

Workplace Inspections What to expect

The WSCC wants to see employers succeed in keeping their workers safe and prevent injuries from occurring. In every step in this process, we encourage you to communicate openly with the WSCC Inspector you are working with. They will provide you with support with reaching compliance with safety legislation.



The outcome of this is dependent on the actions taken by the Chief Mining and OHS Inspector. In the case of a Stop Work Order, you will have to stop the task or work in the environment impacted by the non-compliance until sufficient changes are made to address the direction(s). Other actions will specify next steps.

