

Alberta Workplace Health & Safety

Construction Solutions Conference

Construction Solutions for Mould and Moisture
Management in Buildings

June 7, 2006



Agenda

- Introduction to Alberta Workplace Health and Safety (WHS)
- WHS Compliance Branch
- WHS Role
- Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code
 - Obligations of Employers/Workers
 - Hazard Assessment
 - Considerations under the Act, Regulation and Code for Mould Abatement
 - Bulletin on Mould – available on WHS website

WHS Compliance Branch

- 7 offices across the province
- North and South regions
- 84 officers
- Lead Investigation team



WHS Role

Alberta Human Resources & Employment

*Alberta has a fair, safe, and healthy
work environment*

*“Promote safe, fair and healthy workplaces by
explaining legislated standards and ensuring
compliance through complaint resolution,
investigation and targeted inspections”*



Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- Mould issues usually addressed by WHS through complaints submitted to the department;
- Mould issues and mould abatement are not specifically referenced under the Act, Regulation or Code;
- Both employers and workers have a responsibility for health and safety at the work site as outlined in Section 2 of the Act.



Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- Both employers and workers have a responsibility for health and safety at the work site as outlined in Section 2 of the Act:
 - 2(1) Every employer shall ensure, as far as it is reasonably practicable for the employer to do so,
 - The health and safety of
 - Workers engaged in the work of that employer, and
 - Those workers not engaged in the work of that employer but present at the work site at which that work is being carried out, and
 - That the workers engaged in the work of that employer are aware of their responsibilities and duties under this Act, the regulations and the adopted Code.

Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- 2(2) Every worker shall, while engaged in an occupation,
 - Take reasonable care to protect the health and safety of the worker and of other workers present while the worker is working, and
 - Co-operate with the worker's employer for the purposes of protecting the health and safety of
 - The worker,
 - Other workers engaged in the work of the employer, and
 - Other workers not engaged in the work of that employer but present at the work site at which that work is being carried out.



Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- 2(3) Every supplier shall ensure, as far as it is reasonably practicable for the supplier to do so, that any tool, appliance or equipment that the supplier supplies is in safe operating condition.
- 2(4) Every supplier shall ensure that any tool, appliance, equipment, designated substance or hazardous material that the supplier supplies complies with this Act, the regulations and the adopted Code.
- 2(5) Every contractor who directs the activities of an employer involved in work at a work site shall ensure, as far as it is reasonably practicable to do so, that the employer complies with this Act, the regulations and the adopted Code in respect of that work site.



Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- To address mould issues and mould complaints we ask the employer to conduct a hazard assessment under Part 2 of the Code:
 - Employer must assess a work site and identify existing or potential hazards before work begins at the work site.
 - If an existing or potential hazard to workers is identified during a hazard assessment, an employer must take measures in accordance with this section to
 - Eliminate the hazards, or
 - If elimination is not reasonably practicable, control the hazard



Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- An employer must prepare a report of the results of a hazard assessment and the methods used to control or eliminate the hazards identified.
- Elimination or control of a hazard first with Engineering Controls, then Administrative Controls then Personal Protective Equipment (or a combination of)



Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- **Considerations under the Act , Regulation and Code for mould abatement:**
 - Section 13 of Regulation 62-2003; General Protection of Workers
 - Section 14 of Regulation 62-2003; Duties of Workers
 - Section 15 of Regulation 62-2003; Safety Training



Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- **Considerations under the Act , Regulation and Code for mould abatement:**
 - Part 3 of the Code; Specifications and Certifications
 - Part 4 of the Code; Chemical Hazards, Biological Hazards and Harmful Substances
 - Part 5 of the Code; Confined Spaces
 - Part 11 of the Code; First Aid

Occupational Health and Safety Act, Regulation and Code

- **Considerations under the Act , Regulation and Code for mould abatement:**
 - Part 12 of the Code; General Safety Precautions
 - Part 18 of the Code; Personal Protective Equipment
 - Part 29 of the Code; WHMIS



WHS Bulletin on Mould

- Bulletin entitled: Do I have a Workplace Mould Problem?
 - Bulletin Topics:
 - What is Mould?
 - Potential Health Effects
 - Where is Mould most likely encountered?
 - When is mould most likely to be a problem?
 - What can be done if there is a Mould problem?
 - What can be done to prevent Mould from becoming a problem?
 - Legislated requirements
 - Resources: Health Canada, June 1995; Manitoba Department of Labour, March 2001; New York Department of Health, April 2000



Useful information

- E learning interactive sites
 - www.worksafely.org
 - www.whs.gov.ab.ca
- Call centre contact information
 - 1-866-415-8690
- Publications and statistics
 - Bulletin on Mould (BH018)
 - Bulletin on Indoor Air Quality (GH014)



Thank You