



Pre-Start and Safety Reviews

Section 7 – Regulation 851 of the Occupational Health & Safety Act

In October of 2000, the Ontario Ministry of Labour made an important amendment to Section 7 of the Occupational Health and Safety Act's Regulations and Industrial Establishments. This new amendment more carefully and completely defines an employer, owner or lessee's responsibility for the identification and control of equipment hazards through "[Pre-Start Health and Safety Reviews](#)" (PSR's)

[The Ontario Occupational Health & Safety Act \(OSHA\) Section 25\(2\)](#) requires that an employer shall:

"(h) Take every precaution reasonable in the circumstances for the protection of the worker."

As an employer, you need to ask yourself the following questions:

- Are you aware that in the case of a workplace accident, liability can be extended to the persons responsible for the health & safety of their employees?
- Are you aware a PSR should be conducted by a P. Eng?
- Are you aware of the applicable provisions of the regulations that outline what circumstances dictate the requirements of a PSR?
- Do you know when a PSR exemption would be applicable?
- Are you an owner, lessee or employer that is installing or modifying machinery in the workplace?
- Did you know that you are required by law to conduct a PSR prior to the operation of this new or modified machinery?
- Could you supply evidence of your due-diligence if subjected to a Ministry of Labour Inspection?

In addition to these questions, you should also be aware of the following points regarding PSR's.

What Is Included In The PSR Report:

A PSR report must be dated and signed by the reviewer and include details of the measures to insure the machinery is in compliance with the relevant provisions listed under Section 7 of OHSA. If the reviewer is a professional engineer, his or her seal must be affixed to the report. If the reviewer is not a professional engineer, he or she must include the details of his or her professional knowledge or qualifications in the report.

How Should Records Be Kept:

PSR reports shall be kept readily accessible in the workplace together with any supporting documentation and be provided to the joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative before the apparatus, structure or process is put in use.

Who Must Have Access To The Report:

The PSR report and documentation may be reviewed, on request, a Ministry of Labour inspector or by the company's joint health and safety committee or health and safety representative.

For more information regarding labour laws and employer obligations, see www.labour.gov.on.ca/