



Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol Alberta, Canada 2020

release notes

STP ComplianceEHS (STP) announces the release of its recently updated EHS audit protocol for Alberta, Canada. This audit protocol, which covers relevant national and provincial EHS requirements, was previously updated in October 2018. The regulatory date for the current release is March 2020. The table below shows the extent of regulatory changes that have occurred since the previous update.

Number of Legislative Instruments and their Status
(since October 2018)

Protocol Section	No Change	New	Amended	Repealed
General Environmental	9	2	4	5
Air Emissions	13	4	4	2
Solid and Hazardous Waste	5	3	9	0
Water Resources	9	5	5	0
Above and Below Ground Tank Management	0	1	3	0
Community Noise	0	0	0	0
PCBs	3	0	3	0
Asbestos	0	2	3	1
General Health and Safety	0	0	5	0
Equipment, Machine and Electrical Safety	1	0	5	0
Material Handling and General In-Plant Safety	0	0	3	0
Fire Safety	0	0	3	0
Transport of Dangerous Goods	3	0	3	0
Industrial Hygiene	2	0	3	0
Chemical Management	7	1	10	2
Construction Work Site Safety	0	0	1	0

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highlights of selected new legislation

- **The *Impact Assessment Act (IAA)* [S.C. 2019, c. 28, s.1] (which came into effect on August 28, 2019) establishes** a new process for conducting impact assessments of designated projects proposed to be conducted within federal lands or supported with federal funding. Designated projects and physical activities required to undergo an impact assessment are defined in the *Physical Activities Regulations* [SOR/2019-285], which also came into effect on August 28, 2019. The assessment considers potential environmental, health, social and economic impacts of proposed projects, including benefits, with specific consideration of effects upon Indigenous people. The process requires that the newly formed Impact Assessment Agency (IAA) of Canada provide frequent notice of its assessment activities and obtain input from potentially impacted parties. The IAA repealed and replaced the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA)* [S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52].
- **The *Navigation Protection Act* [E.S.C. 1985, c. N-22] was amended** and renamed the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act*. The amendments expanded the Act to regulate major works and obstructions on all navigable waters, including those not included on the Schedule 1. The amendments also added requirements related to completion of minor works in, on, under, over, or through any navigable water in Canada. The Act creates a new category for “major” works that are likely to substantially interfere with navigation and that will always require approval from Transport Canada, regardless if the navigable waters are listed on Schedule 1. The *Major Work Order* [SOR/2019-320], 2019 was issued designating those major works likely to substantially interfere with navigation.
- **The *Environmental Emergency Regulations 2019* [SOR/2019-51] (which came into force on August 25, 2019) repeal** and replace the *Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2003* [SOR/2003-307]. Industrial facilities that store or use any of 234 listed substances will be required to provide information to Environment Canada about the maximum amount and location of these substances to help emergency response personnel to respond in case of emergency. Facilities subject to the Regulations are also required to develop, implement, and test an emergency plan. For this update, all references to the *Environmental Emergency Regulations, 2003* [SOR/2003-307] have been removed.
- **Notices with Respect to the Reporting of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) for 2018 and 2019 inform** facilities of the government’s intention to collect data on greenhouse gas emissions for the purpose of conducting research, creating a national inventory, formulating objectives and codes of practice, issuing guidelines or assessing or reporting on the state of the environment. These Notices cover reporting requirements for calendar years 2018 and 2019.

- **The Prohibition of Asbestos and Products Containing Asbestos Regulations, SOR/2018-196 (which came into force on December 30, 2018) repeal** the *Asbestos Products Regulations, SOR/2016-164*. These Regulations prohibit the import, use, sale and manufacture of processed asbestos fibres, products containing processed asbestos fibers or any consumer product containing asbestos. Activities that are excluded from this prohibition are specified in the regulation and are subject to asbestos management plans and annual reporting requirements.

- **The Environmental Code of Practice for Elimination of Fluorocarbon Emissions from Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Systems, 2014 was added** for this update. This Code of Practice replaces the 1996 version and covers the design, installation and servicing of stationary and mobile refrigeration and air conditioning systems, as well as service mechanic training requirements. Generally, codes of practice are not binding unless incorporated by regulation or law. The servicing portions of the 2014 Code of Practice are incorporated by reference in *Ozone-Depleting Substances and Halocarbons Regulation, Alta. Reg. 181/2000*.

- **Technology Innovation and Emissions Reduction (TIER) Regulation [Alta. Reg. 133/2019] replaced** the *Carbon Competitiveness Incentive Regulation (CCIR)* and came into effect on January 1, 2020, as the mechanism to implement Alberta's industrial carbon pricing and emissions trading system. The *TIER Regulation* applies to facilities that in 2016 or later emit specified gases (greenhouse gases) in quantities of 100,000 tonnes as measured on a CO₂e basis. The regulation includes provisions for establishing emissions benchmarks for regulated facilities, and determining when net emissions exceed allowable emissions, thus triggering emissions reduction programs. Regulated facilities are required to submit annual compliance reports that are verified by a qualified third-party assurance provider. Facilities exceeding 1,000,000 tonnes of CO₂e must also report their forecasted emissions for subsequent reporting years.

- **The Code of Practice for Landfills, 1996 was added** during this update. This Code sets out Alberta's requirements for Class II and Class III landfills accepting 10,000 tonnes or less of non-hazardous and inert waste per year. It is incorporated into the *Waste Control Regulation, Alta. Reg. 192/96*.

- **The Code of Practice for Compost Facilities, 1997 was added** during this update. This Code sets out Alberta's requirements for Class I compost facilities accepting 20,000 tonnes or less of waste per year. It is incorporated by reference into the *Waste Control Regulation, Alta. Reg. 192/96*.

- **The Code of Practice for a Waterworks System Consisting Solely of a Water Distribution System, June 2012 was added** during this update. This Code of Practice has been adopted under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. E-12*, and applies to the construction and operation of a water works system that consists solely of a water distribution system.

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- **The Code of Practice for Wastewater Systems Consisting Solely of a Wastewater Collection System, September 2003, was added** during this update. This Code of Practice has been adopted under the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act, R.S.A. 2000, c. E-12* and applies to the construction and operations of a wastewater collection system that discharges into a wastewater system.



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