



Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol Quebec, Canada 2021

release notes

STP ComplianceEHS (STP) announces the release of its recently updated EHS audit protocol for Quebec, Canada. This audit protocol, which covers relevant provincial and national EHS requirements, was previously updated in October 2018. The regulatory date for the current release is January 2021. 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Protocol Section	No Change	New	Amended	Repealed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	4	5	10	4
Air Emissions	5	9	14	0
Solid and Hazardous Waste	3	2	10	0
Water Resources	13	6	8	1
Above and Below Ground Tank Management	1	1	6	0
Community Noise	1	0	1	0
PCBs	3	0	2	0
Asbestos	4	0	5	0
General Health and Safety	4	1	7	0
Equipment, Machine and Electrical Safety	2	0	2	0
Material Handling and General In-Plant Safety	1	0	1	0
Fire Safety	4	0	2	0
Transport of Dangerous Goods	2	1	2	0
Industrial Hygiene	3	2	4	0
Chemical Management	15	5	10	0
Construction Work Site Safety	0	0	6	0

highlights of selected new legislation

- **Impact Assessment Act (IAA) [S.C. 2019, c. 28, s.1] came into effect** on August 28, 2019. The Act and its regulations establish 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 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 The IAA repealed and replaced the *Canadian Environmental Assessment Act, 2012 (CEAA) [S.C. 2012, c. 19, s. 52]*.

- **Designated Classes of Projects Order [SOR/2019-323] establishes** a designated class of projects that are expected to cause only insignificant adverse environmental effects and are, therefore, excluded from impact assessment review requirements.

- **Information and Management of Time Limits Regulations [SOR/2019-283] describe** the circumstances in which the time limits in the *Impact Assessment Act* may be suspended, as well as information requirements for the initial and detailed description of projects.

- **Regulation Respecting the Regulatory Scheme Applying to Activities on the Basis of their Environmental Impact (REAFIE) [O.C. 871-2020] came into effect** in December 2020. The Regulation implements a new environmental authorization scheme under the *Environment Quality Act (EQA), R.S.Q. 1972, c. Q-2*. The approval process is based on the degree of environmental impact of the activity in question. More specifically, the Regulation includes procedural and documentation requirements for the approval process. As of the date of this protocol (January 2021), the Regulation has not been consolidated in the official source of Quebec legislation that is referenced above. As such, it does not yet have an official regulatory citation. *O.C. 871-2020* is used as a temporary citation, which references the publication in the Quebec Gazette of a package of regulations and amending regulations related to the new regulatory scheme for environmental authorizations in Quebec.

- **Notice with Respect to Substances in the National Pollutant Release Inventory (NPRI) for 2020 and 2021 [Canada Gazette, Part I, Vol. 154, No. 7, February 15, 2020], covering calendar years 2020 and 2021 requires** certain types of facilities where there are releases, disposal and/or transfer for recycling of the substances listed in Schedule I of the Notice above a listed threshold, to report release information by June 1 of the following calendar year. Certain kinds of facilities are exempted. Typically, a notice applies for two reporting years.

- **Notice with Respect to the Reporting of Greenhouse Gases (GHGs) for 2020 [Canada Gazette Part I, Vol. 155, No. 7, February 13, 2021], covering calendar year 2020 informs** 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. Similar Notices for the reporting on greenhouse gas emissions have been published annually since 2004. Reporting requirements under this Notice are essentially the same as was required for the 2019 reporting year. This Notice also applies to reporting required by the *Output-Based Pricing System Regulations [SOR/2019-266]*, which took effect in January 2019.

- **Benzene in Gasoline Regulations [SOR/97-493] limit** the benzene content in gasoline and gasoline-like blendstock produced, imported, and sold in Canada. They also specify methodologies for determining benzene concentration and record keeping and reporting requirements.

- **Gasoline and Gasoline Blend Dispensing Flow Rate Regulations [SOR/2000-43] provide** maximum dispensing flow rates for nozzles used to dispense gasoline and gasoline-like blendstock containing benzene. The regulations do not apply to nozzles solely dispensing gasoline or a gasoline-like blendstock into heavy-duty vehicles.

- **Regulations Limiting Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Natural Gas-fired Generation of Electricity [SOR/2018-261] establish** a regime for limiting CO₂ emissions that result from the generation of electricity by means of thermal energy from the combustion of natural gas.

- **Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Concentration Limits for Architectural Coatings Regulations [SOR/2009-264] limit** the concentrations of VOCs in architectural coatings. They also specify record keeping and labeling requirements.

- **Volatile Organic Compound (VOC) Concentration Limits for Automotive Refinishing Products Regulations [SOR/2009-197] limit** the concentrations of VOCs in automotive refinishing products. They also specify record keeping and labeling requirements.

- **Reduction of Carbon Dioxide Emissions from Coal-fired Generation of Electricity Regulations [SOR/2012-167] establish** a regime to reduce carbon dioxide emissions that result from using coal as a fuel to produce electricity.

- **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.

release notes

please review

- **Fish Toxicant Regulations [SOR/88-258] establish** an exemption that allows the deposit of fish toxicants in the waters of the provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta and the non-tidal waters of the provinces of Ontario, Quebec and Manitoba if the deposit will not adversely affect fish in the waters adjacent to the waters where the deposit is made and if the deposit is used to eradicate any fish considered a pest in order to enhance fishing in those waters.

- **Prohibition of Asbestos and Products Containing Asbestos Regulations [SOR/2018-196] came into force** on December 30, 2018, and supersede the subsequently repealed *Asbestos Products Regulations*. The Regulations seek to prevent new asbestos and products containing asbestos from entering the Canadian marketplace. In general, the import, use, sale and manufacture of processed asbestos fibres, products containing processed asbestos fibers or any consumer product containing asbestos is prohibited. Specific activities are excluded from this prohibition and are subject to asbestos management plans and annual reporting of asbestos-related activities.

- **Transportation of Dangerous Goods by Rail Security Regulations [SOR/2019-113] provides** security requirements associated with the use of rail for transport of dangerous goods.

- **Nuclear Safety and Control Act [S.C. 1997, c. 9] regulates** the development, production, and use of nuclear energy and the production, possession, and use of nuclear substances.

- **Radiation Protection Regulations [SOR/2000-203] establish** the requirements for licensees and nuclear energy works defined by the *Nuclear Safety and Control Act*, including provisions on radiation dose limits and the establishment of radiation protection plans.

- **Notice Requiring the Preparation and Implementation of Pollution Prevention Plans in Respect of Toluene Diisocyanates, February 16, 2019 requires** the preparation and implementation of pollution prevention plans for toluene diisocyanates. It applies to owners of facilities who, in 2018 or any time thereafter, release into the ambient air 100 kg or more of toluene diisocyanates per calendar year.

- **Notice Requiring the Preparation and Implementation of Pollution Prevention Plans in Respect of Reaction Products of 2-Propanone with Diphenylamine (PREPOD), CAS Rn 68412-48-6, in Industrial Effluents, June 15, 2019 requires** the preparation and implementation of pollution prevention plans *PREPOD* in industrial effluents. It applies to owners or operators of facilities within the chemical manufacturing or rubber products manufacturing sectors, that in 2019 or any year thereafter, have an industrial effluent and that manufacture or use *PREPOD*, or a mixture or compound containing *PREPOD*, in a quantity greater than 100 kg per calendar year.



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