



## **Environmental Health & Safety Audit Protocol Nova Scotia, Canada 2022**

**STP ComplianceEHS (STP) announces** the release of its newly developed environmental, health and safety (EHS) audit protocol for Nova Scotia, Canada. This audit protocol covers relevant federal and provincial EHS requirements. The regulatory date for the current release is June 2022.

This EHS audit protocol is organized around sixteen topics, with a separate section devoted to each, as follows:

- General Environmental
- Air Emissions
- Solid and Hazardous Waste
- Water Resources
- Above and Below Ground Tank Management
- Community Noise
- PCBs
- Asbestos
- General Health and Safety
- Equipment, Machine and Electrical Safety
- Material Handling and General In-Plant Safety
- Fire Safety
- Transport of Dangerous Goods
- Industrial Hygiene
- Chemical Management
- Construction Work Site Safety

### **highlights of the regulatory framework**

Canada is a constitutional monarchy and a federal state with a democratic system of government. Canada's Constitution is the supreme law of the country, and it establishes the framework for the system of law and justice. It sets out the basic rights of individuals and defines the nature and powers of the federal and provincial governments. Since 1982, Canada's Constitution contains a Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which sets out certain fundamental freedoms and rights that neither Parliament nor any provincial/territorial legislature, acting alone, can change. These include equality rights, mobility rights and legal rights, together with freedoms such as speech, association and peaceful assembly.

The Federal Government, which is based in Ottawa, consists of three separate branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The federal government's responsibilities include national defense, trade and commerce, banking and the monetary system, criminal law, citizenship, fisheries, aeronautics, shipping, aboriginal affairs, railways, telecommunications and atomic energy. The provincial and territorial legislatures are responsible for such matters as education, property and civil rights, the administration of justice, health care, natural resources and the environment, social security and municipal institutions. Under Canada's federal system of government, the authority to make laws is divided between the Parliament of Canada and the provincial legislatures.

# release notes

*please review*

The relevant legislation for Nova Scotia can be accessed as follows (all last accessed in June 2022):

- Canadian federal legislation is available at <https://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/index.html>;
- Nova Scotia Acts are available at <https://nslegislature.ca/legislative-business/bills-statutes/consolidated-public-statutes>; and
- Nova Scotia Regulations are available at <https://novascotia.ca/just/regulations/consregs.htm>.

## Environment

Environment and Climate Change Canada is the lead agency at the federal level and is responsible for administering various federal acts. It is divided organizationally into nine headquartered services led by Assistant Deputy Ministers, the Director General – Audit and Evaluation, the Senior General Counsel and Executive Director, the Chief Human Resources Management Officer, and the Chief Enforcement Officer. The agency also includes the Deputy Minister, the Associate Deputy Minister, and the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Minister. For information about Environment and Climate Change Canada, and its plans and priorities, see the government website at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/corporate/transparency/priorities-management.html> (last accessed in June 2022).

In Nova Scotia, the Department of Environment and Climate Changes is responsible for implementing and enforcing environmental legislation for facilities located in Nova Scotia. More information about the various Department programs and responsibilities is available at <https://novascotia.ca/nse/> (last accessed in June 2022).

## Health and Safety

Health Canada is the federal department which administers the investigation, assessment and monitoring of health risks to human. In partnership with provincial and territorial governments, it provides national leadership to develop health policy, enforce health regulations, promote disease prevention and enhance healthy living. It works with other federal departments, agencies and stakeholders to reduce health and safety risks. The branches of Health Canada include, amongst others, the Strategic Policy Branch (which plays a lead role in health policy, communications and consultations); the Health Products and Food Branch; the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch (HECSB); the Pest Management Regulatory Agency; and the Regulatory Operations and Enforcement Branch. For more information on the branches and agencies, see the government website at <https://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/> (last accessed June 2022).

Federally regulated industries and workplaces are covered by the federal occupational health and safety legislation; however, these industries are not covered in this protocol. Occupational health and safety requirements that apply to all other industries and workplaces are detailed in the Nova Scotia legislation. More information about the applicability of federal and provincial health and safety requirements can be found at <https://www.canada.ca/en/services/jobs/workplace/federally-regulated-industries.html> (last accessed June 2022).

In Nova Scotia, the Department of Labour, Skills and Immigration is responsible for implementing and enforcing occupational health and safety legislation for the applicable facilities located in Nova Scotia. More information about the various Department programs and responsibilities is available at <https://novascotia.ca/lae/healthandsafety/> (last accessed June 2022).

# release notes

*please review*

## Enforcement

Government authorities at both the Nova Scotia and federal level have a range of administrative actions available to them to enforce environmental and occupational health and safety legislation. Examples include fines and imprisonment, as well as compliance orders that direct a facility to take specified actions or refrain from taking certain actions.



### related STP products

- **Environmental, Health & Safety Audit Protocols—Other Jurisdictions.**

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