

OSSA Workwell story: short and long versions
Long version: Advocate, 25 Feb 2010

Short version

What you can do if you received a Workwell letter

Don't wait for your first audit—act now to save time, money and frustration

In late January, the WSIB sent out letters of notification to organizations it intends to target as part of its 2010 [Workwell Program](#). If you've already received a letter, you can't turn back the clock. However, by acting quickly to assess your risks and implement solutions before inspectors arrive, you can lessen the impact of the audit on your organization. Too many companies lose valuable time that could be spent developing, documenting and implementing processes that the audit will most likely require them to act on anyway.

Start by finding out [how the Workwell program functions](#) and what inspectors look for. If you do not achieve a passing score of 75%, you are given six months to fix what's wrong before you are re-evaluated.

If you do not achieve a passing score of 75% at the second evaluation, you'll be charged with an additional premium ranging from 10% to 75% of your base annual premium, depending on the seriousness of your health and safety shortfalls.

The WSIB in its Workwell letter will have pointed you to OSSA, your designated health and safety association and trusted advisor in helping you develop and implement your program. In addition to our [specialized consulting](#), we offer a customized Workwell Practice Audit. [Call to find out more.](#)

Here are the links:

Workwell program: <http://www.wsib.on.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/public/Workwell>

How the Workwell program functions:

[http://www.wsib.on.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/LookupFiles/DownloadableFileWorkwellAudit/\\$File/WorkwellAudit.pdf](http://www.wsib.on.ca/wsib/wsibsite.nsf/LookupFiles/DownloadableFileWorkwellAudit/$File/WorkwellAudit.pdf)

Specialized consulting: <http://www.ossa.com/content/services/workwell.cfm>

Call to find out more: <http://www.ossa.com/content/contactUs/>

What you can do if you received a Workwell letter

Don't wait for your first audit—act now to save time, money and frustration

In late January, the WSIB sent out letters of notification to organizations it intends to target as part of its 2010 [Workwell Program](#). If you've already received a letter, you can't turn back the clock. However, by acting quickly to assess your risks and implement solutions before inspectors arrive, you can lessen the impact of the audit on your organization, and possibly even sidestep the audit altogether. Here's what you need to know.

What you can expect from Workwell

Start by finding out [how the Workwell program functions](#) and what happens if you fail the audit:

- Inspectors will examine your program, observe your practices and procedures in action, tour your workplace, and conduct random interviews with employees.
- After the inspector's visit, you will receive a report with your overall score, a list of the health and safety program components you have in place, and a list of areas needing improvement.
- If you do not achieve a passing score of 75%, you are given six months to fix what's wrong before you're re-evaluated. *(Remember that Workwell inspectors don't give marks for partially implemented components: they use an "all-or-nothing" marking system.)*
- Employers that fail the initial evaluation are required to work with a health and safety program provider (e.g. your newly amalgamated health and safety association, Safe Workplace Promotion Services Ontario (SWPSO), which combines the former Ontario Service Safety Alliance (OSSA), Farm Safety Association (FSA) and Industrial Accident Prevention Association (IAPA)) to improve their compliance with the evaluation criteria. Failure to do so results in the immediate levying of the additional premium charge, based on the initial evaluation score.
- If you do not achieve a passing score of 75% at the second evaluation, you'll be charged with an additional premium ranging from 10% to 75% of your base annual premium, depending on the seriousness of your health and safety shortfalls.

The most important thing employers in receipt of a Workwell letter can do is start now. Too many companies lose valuable time that could be spent developing, documenting and implementing processes that the audit will most likely require them to act on anyway.

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