

Alberta Occupational Safety Auditors Association

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Message from the Chair

Welcome to the Fall Edition of the AOSAA Newsletter. At this time of the year, auditors are typically working flat out to get audits completed for companies to maintain or re-certify their CORs for the year as well as to qualify new COR holders.

So we just wanted to take a minute out of your busy schedules to let you know that your AOSAA Board members have been busy too – working on projects that you as members have asked us to follow-up.

In this issue, you will find details regarding the OHSAS Auditor training being organized for January 2012. Please read the article and let us know if you are interested as soon as possible so that we can confirm the arrangements.

We are also busy planning the meeting for February 8th in Red Deer. Please plan on joining us for an exciting program and opportunity to network with your colleagues in the auditing community.

Hoping you all had a restful and fun Summer break and looking forward to some exciting opportunities this Fall and Winter.

Carol Eamer CHSMSA
Chair, AOSAA



Partnerships Update

OSAR Report

In 2010 Partnerships undertook a 12-month pilot project that involved conducting post-audit, on-site reviews designed to confirm key audit findings and validate auditor process. Reviews were conducted by 5 experienced and certified health and safety auditors selected by the Certifying Partners and working under contract to Partnerships.

Through the use of employer interview questions provided by Partnerships, on-site audit reviewers (OSA reviewers) were asked to confirm auditor activities at the work site.

Findings indicated that most auditors are accurately reporting their activities, and following the audit processes to which they are trained by the Certifying Partners. For example, the on-site post audit reviews confirmed that 90.8% of the auditors scored the sampled questions the same or somewhat the same as the OSA reviewers. Auditors scored a question significantly lower than the OSA reviewer an average of only 1.4% of the time, and scored significantly higher than the OSAR findings an average of 7% of the time.

While there were few areas where *all* auditors were conducting their activities to Partnerships/Certifying Partner standards, in most cases, only a small number of deficiencies were identified. For example:

- 4.5% of auditors were allowing the employer to select their interviewees
- 1.8% of auditors were taking less than 10 minutes to conduct individual interviews
- 2.5% of auditors were not reporting all members of their audit team
- 3% of auditors were not conducting pre-audit meetings

There were, however, some significant trends identified, one of which was that 9.8% of auditors are misreporting their audit dates. And, in some cases, it appears that dates are being deliberately misreported in order to meet Partnerships' standards for submitting the report within 45 days of the last day on site. In addition, eight of the auditors sampled were deviating from standard audit processes in ways that could significantly affect the validity of audit results, and/or which appeared to violate the Auditor Code of Ethics. Although some of the affected employers in these cases expressed dissatisfaction with the auditor or their audit results, they were hesitant to contact the Certifying Partner in case their COR-status would be jeopardized.



"Partnerships in Health and Safety promotes health and safety through partnerships with safety associations, industry groups, educational institutions and labour organizations."



Auditor Dispute Resolution Process

A special Certifying Partners Meeting was held in July to give first reading to changes in the Partnerships Standard. From the minutes of this meeting, it appears revisions were given first reading which affect the discipline process for the following sections of the Partnerships Standard:

- Section 6.3 Auditor Performance Management
- Section 6.5 Discipline for Auditor Code of Ethics Violations
- Section 8.1 Review of Decisions

It was also noted that in the June Partners Meeting, a decision was made that Certifying Partners will have discretion as to whether to offer the arbitration process. This means that some CPs will offer only the review panel, some CPs will offer only the arbitration process, and some CPs will use either the review panel or arbitration depending upon the issue. There were no details as to what individual CP's positions are concerning the arbitration option and to what situations the option may apply.



As you know, in the first half of 2010, your association took exception to the Partnership Standard that did not allow for the provision of an arm's length component to dispute resolution, something other than a CP directed review panel. Given the information we currently have, there has been progress made to address our concerns. However, it appears that there may not be a specific enough requirement for arbitration to achieve a "level playing field" in this aspect of the Partnerships Program with all CP's. We will keep you updated on further developments.

The CP's did meet in September for 2nd reading. Details of that meeting are not yet available.

Section 217 Criminal Code (Bill C-45) Update

Recently, there has been a second conviction under Section 217 of the Criminal Code – the section that speaks to criminal liability related to occupational health and safety.

The case from Quebec involves a landscaping company and a lack of maintenance on equipment, resulting in the death of a worker.

For a detailed account and commentary, To see the whole article or subscribe to their newsletter *OHS Law Report* go to – http://www.ohslaw.ca/index_OHSLaw.asp and search for the February 2011 issue.

OHSAS 18001 Lead Auditor Training

Responding to results of our member survey, AOSAA has contracted with BSI Group America Inc. to provide members with an OHSAS Lead Auditor training program in 2012. We have negotiated a group rate to provide this course in Alberta at a substantial discount to BSI's Single Participant rate.

Course: OHSAS 18001 2007 Lead Auditor

Date: January 16 – 19, 2012

Location: Holiday Inn 67 Street, Red Deer, Alberta

Pre-requisites: Participants should be familiar with the OHSAS 18001 standard prior to attending the class.

Pre-class: For lead auditor courses, a pre-course assignment will be provided to students prior to class. Pre-course materials do not include a copy of the standard.

Cost: \$1,200 for AOSAA Members (Street Price - \$1695)

Class Max: 20

Class Structure: This is a four (4) day training program with 3 segments. The course is progressive moving from introduction to practice. There is an examination after day 2, day 3, and day 4. Each segment can be "passed" individually. If a person fails they can have up to 3 attempts to re-write (on-line process from your computer). Our contact at BSI has indicated that they have never had a person fail the program and no one has had to use 3 re-writes to successfully pass the training.

Registration: Please complete the registration form on the AOSAA website (members only section) and found via this link

<https://adobeformscentral.com/?f=3Dh5ImT3NsFUo1YU2SQASw>

Payment can be made on the AOSAA website via PayPal or by cheque to: AOSAA PO Box 21045, Calgary, Alberta T2P 4H5 You can pay for the course in full upon registration or provide \$500 (non-refundable unless the entire course is cancelled) to AOSAA by Friday December 2, 2012 to indicate your participation. You will then be invoiced for the balance which is due and payable by January 9, 2012.

BSI Website: <http://www.bsigroup.ca/en-ca/training/course-areas/ohs/OHSMS-OHSAS-18001-Lead-auditor/>

AOSAA Workshop

The next AOSAA workshop is scheduled for February 8, 2012 at the Holiday Inn (67 Street) Red Deer. Your board of directors is working on the plan for the day, and a final agenda will be provided in a separate communication or future newsletter.

We are pleased to confirmed presentations and activities for February already include:

- Mr. Dan Lee of Worksafe B.C. will be in attendance to share insights into their activities. Dan is a Construction Safety Specialist with Worksafe B.C.
- Bev Preece from the Alberta Construction Safety Association will join us providing an update on initiatives at ACSA.

We also anticipate involvement of representatives from Partnerships.

As is our normal practice, the first workshop in the calendar year also includes our Annual General Meeting (AGM). **If you have interest in being a board member or executive member**, please contact either one of the following:

- Carol Eamer – AOSAA Chairperson 2011 / 2012
- Wally Cook – AOSAA Past Chairperson



In Memoriam

We have been alerted to the passing of two individuals during 2011 relating to our membership. Our condolences and supporting wishes go out to:

- Mr. Bob Birk (current member) at the passing of his wife
- The family of member Mr. Tony Wentworth on his passing in July

We wish both Bob Birk and the Wentworth family peace and comfort.



**ALBERTA
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AUDITORS
ASSOCIATION**

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We're on the Web!

*For more information
or to join the association
please visit us at:*

www.aosaa.ca

About Our Organization...

The Alberta Occupational Safety Auditors Association is a professional organization dedicated to the development and professional practice of health and safety auditing. It is the goal of the association to become the voice of the health and safety auditing profession with membership from across the province and representing all industries.

The Association's mission is to enhance the practices of safety auditing by creating a provincial forum and organization to advance ideas, procedures and member interaction.

The Association's primary objective is to promote the health and safety auditing profession, not only in Alberta, but across Canada. The Association will provide its members with ongoing professional development and will also provide a meeting place for health and safety professionals to focus on the auditing discipline.

The founders of this association believe that as the Partnerships in Health and Safety program continues to grow in Western Canada we will see a growth in the auditing profession and it is only appropriate that we develop professional, competent and ethical auditors to complement this growth.

The Association was incorporated as a not-for-profit society in September 2005. The Association became a Partner with Alberta Human Resources and Employment in the Partnerships in Health and Safety program in May 2006.

All members will be required to sign and abide by the AOSAA Code of Ethics.

Executive Committee

Chair – Carol Eamer CHSMSA (OHS Consulting Ltd.)

Past-Chair – Wally Cook P.Eng. CRSP CHSMSA (Kestrel Resources Ltd.)

Vice-Chair – Joan Barbour MHSc, ROH, CRSP (Joan Barbour Consulting Ltd.)

Secretary/Treasurer – Judy Cook P. Eng. CRSP (Kestrel Resources Ltd.)

Director – Laurent St. Louis CRSP (Sword Energy Inc.)

Director – Rae Ann Aldridge B. Eng. CRSP (University of Calgary)

Director – Rob Wilman CRSP (Ensign Energy Group)

Director – Steve Nyenhuis (Creative Door)

Director – Shannon Bolger (Benchmark Safety Inc.)

Director – Brock Downey CRSP (City of Calgary)

The Auditor newsletter is produced and edited by Wally Cook P. Eng. CRSP CHSMSA (Kestrel Resources Ltd.)

Would you like to write an article for **The Auditor**? Provide your idea to the editor.

Questions or comments about the newsletter may be directed to the editor at: wcook@kestrelresources.com

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