

LEGISLATION UPDATES

OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT UPDATES

Dunk & Associates continues to monitor legislation updates and implement changes to program content and training modules to ensure you are always kept up to date. To see a recap of the recent changes, please [click here](#).

Only Ontario legislation updates this month

OVERVIEW OF MAJOR CHANGES	WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR EMPLOYERS?
ONTARIO	
Ontario has introduced several occupational health and safety regulatory changes affecting respiratory protection, construction safety, and elevating work platforms: Respirator Updates O. Reg. 113/26 (Control of Exposure to Biological or Chemical Agents) O. Reg. 114/26 (Designated Substances) O. Reg. 115/26 (Asbestos on Construction Projects and in Buildings and Repair Operations) Effective July 1, 2026. Ontario has expanded acceptable respiratory protection standards to recognize CSA-approved respirators (in addition to NIOSH-approved equipment) and updated respirator/filter classifications to align with current standards.	Employers should review policies, training, and equipment requirements to ensure compliance. Respirator Updates Review respiratory protection programs, exposure control plans, and safe work procedures. Update approved PPE lists and purchasing specifications, particularly for workplaces managing biological, chemical, designated-substance, or asbestos-related hazards. Confirm training and fit-testing processes remain current.
Elevating Work Platforms O. Reg. 117/26 (Elevating Work Platforms) Effective January 1, 2027. Ontario has introduced a dedicated regulation for elevating work platforms (e.g., boom lifts and scissor lifts), establishing specific requirements for equipment inspections, maintenance, operator training, familiarization, and recordkeeping.	Elevating Work Platforms Review and update operator training programs, refresher training practices, inspection procedures, maintenance programs, and record retention processes. Ensure workers are appropriately trained and familiarized prior to operating equipment in 2027. Construction employers should prepare for the shift from embedded construction-project rules to this standalone EWP regulation.
Construction Safety – Head Protection O. Reg. 112/26 (amending O. Reg. 213/91 – Construction Projects) Effective July 1, 2027. Workers exposed to side-impact hazards must wear enhanced head protection (Type 2 safety helmets or equivalent). Employers must also ensure helmets have retention systems (e.g., chin straps) where there is a risk of the helmet becoming dislodged.	Construction Safety – Head Protection Construction employers should assess work activities for side-impact head injury hazards, review current hard hat inventories, and plan for equipment replacement where required. Update PPE policies, hazard assessments, and worker training, and establish criteria for when retention systems must be worn.