

Reason for change: The guideline is no longer needed because all of the Vice President directives have expired.

### *G-P2-85 COVID-19 vice president directives*

~~Preliminary~~ Issue March 25, 2020; Editorial Revision April 6, 2020; Retired October 20, 2020

This guideline is no longer needed because all of the Vice President directives have expired.

~~Section 85(1) of the *Workers Compensation Act* (“Act”) states:~~

~~An officer of the Board may exercise the authority of the Board to make orders under the OHS provisions, subject to any restrictions or conditions established by the Board.~~

~~Under Policy Item P2-17-1 of the Prevention Manual, the President and Chief Executive Officer has assigned to the Senior Vice President, Operations, or his or her delegate, the authority to exercise the WorkSafeBC’s power under section 85(1) to establish restrictions and conditions on the making of orders under the OHS provisions of the Act.~~

~~As a result of the current COVID-19 situation, the following directives are made pursuant to the delegated authority of the Senior Vice President, Operations to the Vice President, Prevention Services under section 85(1) of the Act.~~

~~Vice President, Prevention Services (VP) Directives of the following sections of the *OHS Regulation* (“Regulation”):~~

~~Section 8.40 Fit Tests~~

~~Section 7.8 Hearing Tests~~

~~Section 24.10(2)(b) Medical Certification~~

#### ~~**Conditions and restrictions of directives**~~

~~The following conditions and restrictions apply to the authority of WorkSafeBC prevention officers to make orders under these directives in addition to any specific conditions or restrictions named in the directive:~~

- ~~1. — Prevention officers will not issue an order for a violation of a section of the *Regulation* that is the subject of a directive.~~
- ~~2. — Orders may be issued for violations under other sections of the *Regulation* which may apply — including the other sections noted in some of the directives — and under the OHS provisions of the Act — including the general duties of employers, workers, supervisors, prime contractors, owners, and suppliers.~~
- ~~3. — These conditions and restrictions apply to all WorkSafeBC occupational health and safety related officers conducting inspections or investigations as well as to prevention officers and management personnel considering orders and administrative penalties made pursuant to inspections or accident investigations.~~

#### ~~**Regulatory requirements**~~

~~Section 8.40 of the *Regulation* states, in part:~~

~~...~~

~~(2.1) A fit test must be carried out~~

~~(a) before initial use of a respirator,~~

~~(b) at least once a year,~~

~~(c) whenever there is a change in respirator facepiece, including the brand, model, and size, and~~

~~(d) whenever changes to the user's physical condition could affect the respirator fit.~~

~~The Vice President Prevention directs as follows:~~

- ~~• This Directive applies to workers required to wear an N95 respirator by a BC Health Authority as per their infection control protocol and risk assessment.~~
- ~~• Workers must have a documented respirator fit test on the same brand, model, and size of respirator within the previous 2 years (24 months) prior to wearing an N95 respirator. Workers who do not have a documented fit test from the previous 24 months must be fit tested in accordance with the *Regulation*.~~
- ~~• Workers must perform a fit check or seal check prior to use of the N95 respirator, and where that check reveals an issue with the seal, a full fit test must be performed.~~
- ~~• The application of section 8.40(2.1)(b) of the *Regulation* is unchanged for other employers outside of the BC Health Authorities and for respirators other than N95 respirators.~~
- ~~• All other requirements of section 8.40 (Fit tests) and section 8.41 (User seal test) of the *Regulation*, are unaffected by this modification.~~

~~Section 7.8 of the *Regulation* states, in part:~~

~~(1) The employer must give workers who are exposed to noise that exceeds noise exposure limits~~

~~(a) an initial hearing test as soon as practicable after employment starts, but not later than 6 months after the start of employment, and~~

~~(b) a test at least once every 12 months after the initial test.~~

~~The Vice President Prevention directs as follows:~~

- ~~• This Directive applies to all workers required to have a hearing test as per section 7.8(1)(b) of the *Regulation*.~~
- ~~• Hearing tests may be deferred until August 1, 2020. Note that this date is subject to change.~~
- ~~• All other requirements of section 7.8 (Hearing tests) of the *Regulation* are unaffected by this modification, including section 7.8(1)(a), which requires an initial hearing test within 6 months of the start of employment.~~

~~Section 24.10 of the *Regulation* states, in part:~~

~~...~~

~~(2) A diver's medical certification must be~~

~~(a) established prior to entry into any commercial diving activity,~~

~~(b) renewed every 2 years up to age 39 and annually from age 40 onwards,~~

~~The Vice President Prevention directs as follows:~~

- ~~• This Directive applies to all divers with valid medical certification expiring from the date of this VP Directive to June 1, 2020 inclusive.~~
- ~~• These divers may continue to dive using that medical certificate until August 1, 2020 inclusive. Note that this date is subject to change.~~
- ~~• All other requirements of section 24.10 (Medical certification) of the *Regulation* are unaffected by this modification, including section 24.10(2)(c), which requires recertification if clinically indicated, and section 24.10(2)(d), which requires certification to be re-evaluated if the diver is subjected to an event or has a physical condition that may affect the diver's medical status.~~