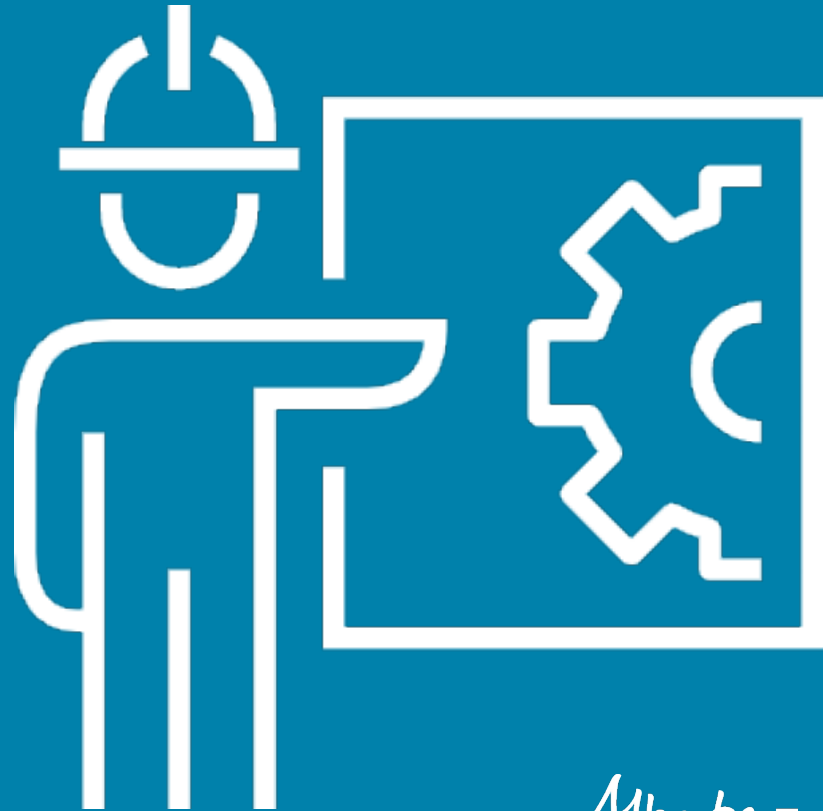


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# OHS Code Changes – In Force March 31, 2023

Modernizing OHS Regulation

Jobs, Economy and Northern Development, Government of Alberta  
March 2023



*Alberta* 

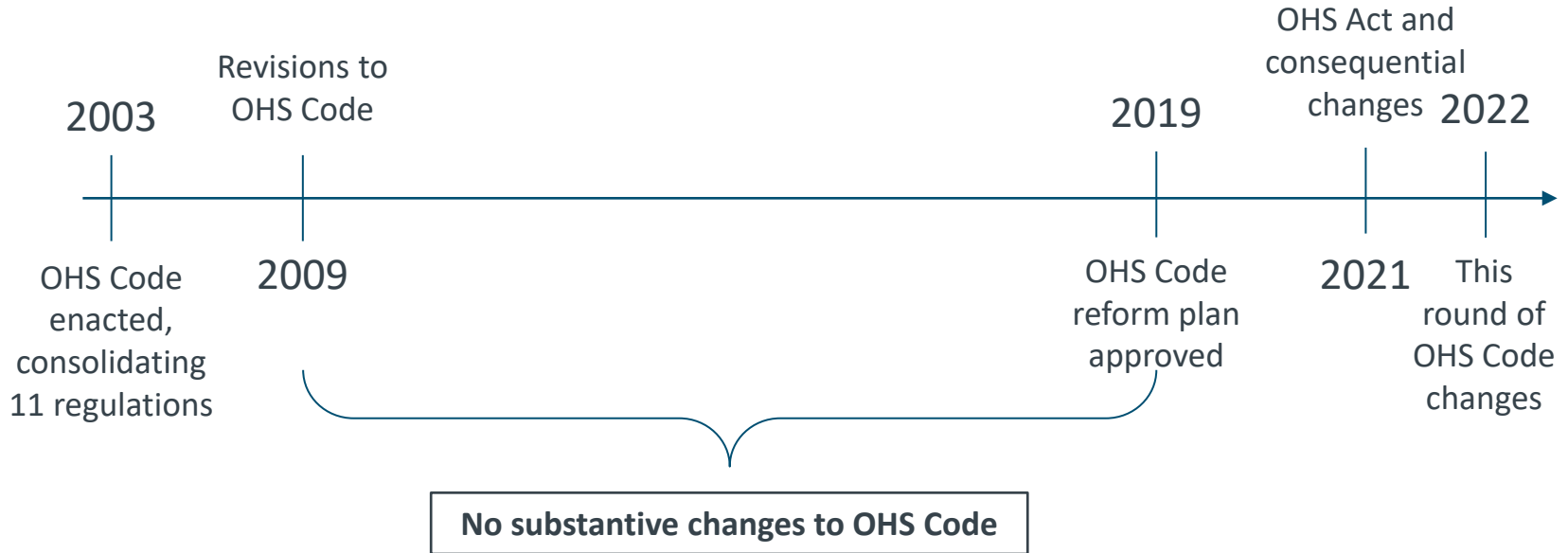
# Land Acknowledgement



# Agenda

- Background
- Types of changes
- Overview of changes
- Support materials
- Implementation
- Moving forward and next round of changes

# Background



# Types of Changes

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Five categories of changes

# Types of Changes

## Administrative changes

- Remove duplication, clarify requirements, correct errors, and streamline provisions to focus on health and safety outcomes.

## Update technical standards

- Update references to the latest editions, align with other Canadian jurisdictions, and replace prescriptive requirements with a standard reference.

## Clarify work site party responsibilities

- Clarify work site party responsibilities to ensure the appropriate work site party is accountable for health and safety.

## Acceptances

- Include requirements in the OHS Code for some work practices permitted with an acceptance.

## Modernization

- New requirements to improve health and safety and keep pace with advances in technology and work practices.

# Administrative Changes

Removing duplication within the OHS Code and consolidating similar requirements.

Removing administrative requirements which do not add value.

Correcting legal language.

Focusing on outcomes, where it makes sense.

# Updates to Technical Standards

Updating current  
standard references.

Replacing  
prescriptive  
requirements with a  
standard reference.

Harmonizing with  
other jurisdictions.



# Clarify Work Site Party Responsibilities

Updating work site party responsibilities to support a strong internal responsibility system.

These are not shifts but reflect roles and responsibilities in the OHS Act.

# Acceptances

Removing the need for acceptances by incorporating the requirement into the OHS Code.

Significant effort on both the stakeholder and the department to issue an acceptance.

In some cases, acceptances have granted for almost a decade.

# Modernization

OHS requirements need to keep pace with hazards and modern practices as work processes and equipment advance.

This category includes adopting new standards, new provisions or applying requirements to industries or segments of an industry that they did not previously apply to.

# Highlight of Changes

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Eight topics of changes

# OHS Code Changes

- Part 11 – First Aid
- Part 15 – Managing Control of Hazardous Energy
- Part 16 – Noise
- Part 17/40 – Overhead Power Lines/  
Electrical Utility Workers
- Miscellaneous changes

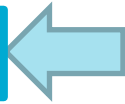
Applicable to  
all industries

Applicable to  
specific industries  
and activities

- Part 33 – Explosives
- Part 36 – Mining
- Part 37 – Oil and Gas Wells

# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Part 11 – First Aid



- Harmonize training and first aid kit requirements.
  - CSA Standard Z1210-17, *First aid training for the workplace – Curriculum and quality management for training agencies.*
  - CSA Standard Z1220-17, *First aid kits for the workplace.*
- Remove the need for medical professionals to take first aid training by recognizing the medical training they take exceeds first aid training requirements. This removes the need for acceptances.
- Revise wording to improve clarity and remove duplication.

# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Part 11 – First Aid
- Part 15 – Managing Control of Hazardous Energy



- Clarify work site party responsibilities to align with the OHS Act.
- Requirement for complex group control procedures to be certified by a Professional Engineer to remove the need for acceptances.
- Clarify worker placement when “pigging” is done.
- New definitions.
- Revise wording to improve clarity and remove duplication.

# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Part 11 – First Aid
- Part 15 – Managing Confined Spaces and Energy
- **Part 16 – Noise**
- Part 17/40 – Overhead Power Lines for Electrical Utility Workers
- Miscellaneous changes

- Updates to technical standards.
- Reduction in the action limit to 82 dBA for conducting noise exposure assessments.
- New requirement to ensure hearing protective devices are properly fitted.
- Clarification on the competency for the person conducting a noise assessment.
- Streamlined audiometric testing requirements.



# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Part 11 – First Aid
  - Part 15 – Managing Control of Hazardous Energy
  - Part 16 – Noise
  - **Part 17/40 – Overhead Power Lines/  
Electrical Utility Workers**
  - Miscellaneous changes
- Part 33 – E
  - Part 36 – M
  - Part 37 – C
- Update to technical standard for electrical safety.
  - Revise wording to improve clarity and remove duplication.
  - Updates to Part 40 to align with changes to Part 17.

# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Part 11 – First Aid
- Part 15 – Managing Control Energy
- Part 16 – Noise
- Part 17/40 – Overhead Power Electrical Utility Workers
- **Miscellaneous changes**

**Changes to:** Parts 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 18, 23, 25, 32, 39, 41

- New and amended definitions.
- New option for remote confined space monitoring.
- Change of “daily” inspection to “reasonably practicable intervals”.
- Updates to technical standards for personal protective equipment.
- Add “PPE” and “any other thing that may cause a hazard to workers.”
- Changes “open pit mine” to “pit mine”

# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Revise wording to remove duplication and improve clarity.
- Updates to technical standards.
- Clarify work site party responsibilities to align with the OHS Act.
- Consolidated requirements for mining and non-mining blaster certificates.
- Consolidated mining requirements for explosives use.
- New requirements to reflect best practices.
- New definitions



## Part 33 – Explosives

- Part 36 – Mining
- Part 37 – Oil and Gas Wells

# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Updates to technical standards.
- Revise wording to improve clarity and remove duplication.
- Some provisions specific to underground coal mines to apply to all underground mines.
- Reduce administrative burden by removing the need for approvals and document submissions.
- New requirements to reflect best practices.
- Flexibility for sand and gravel pits.
- Updated and new definitions.



Part 36 – Mining

- Part 37 – Oil and Gas Wells

# OHS Code Change Highlights

- Part 11 – First Aid
- Part 15 – Managing Control of Hazardous Energy
- Part 16 – Noise
- Part 17/19 – Overhead Power Lines/

- New requirements to reflect best practices.
- Updates to technical standards.
- Revise wording to improve clarity and remove duplication.
- New definitions.

Part 37 – Oil and Gas Wells

# A Note About Ticketable Provisions

- Ticketable provisions must be prescriptive and are limited to provisions where a work site party had to do something and did not do it.
- Six ticketable provisions have been changed into performance-based requirements and are no longer suitable for ticketing.
  - Of those six, five relate to ignition sources near explosives and one relates to record keeping.

**Note:** These changes do not affect the requirements.

# Resources Available

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Publications, contacts, and websites

# Resources

## Change highlights: Overhead power lines and electrical utility workers – Parts 17 and 40 in the OHS Code OHS information for work site parties

This bulletin introduces changes in Parts 17 and 40 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code.

For clarity, Part 17 now omits the word "energized" when describing overhead power lines and related legislative requirements that apply to them. All overhead power lines must be assumed to be energized, in accordance with the OHS standards.

## Change highlights: Oil and gas wells – Part 37 in the OHS Code OHS information for work site parties

This bulletin introduces changes in Oil and gas wells – Part 37 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code.

### IMPORTANT

This is an overview of updates effective March 31, 2023.

### New definitions

The following definitions have been added to improve clarity.

- "Cathode" means a slotted tool connected to a branch's power system used to create tension on pipe, cables and ropes.

"Oil stem test" means a procedure for testing and setting the pressure, permeability and production capacity of a geological formation during the drilling of a well by permitting the flow of formation fluids through a drill pipe.

"Pony saddle" means the part of a drilling rig designed to support the bit string.

"Tubing" means the set of heavy tubular bits or a well bore when pressure is contained in the well.

"Tubing unit" means equipment used for snubbing tubing unit means equipment used for well setting.

"Well servicing" means maintenance work performed on oil, gas or geothermal energy well or bring the well into production, after completion of initial production, of the well and during any ancillary duties associated with these operations.

"Well stimulation" means any operation performed to increase the productivity of a well.

"Well testing" means a process to remove fluids from an oil or gas well to increase well productivity.

It also includes provisions that have been revised for clarity.

Employer, if there is no prime contractor – must offer before that worker comes into the work site the information set out in this new provision.

Employer, if there is no prime contractor – must instruct to ensure: position, demobilization and removal of all equipment under maximum loads, and can be carried out safely.

## Change highlights: Noise exposure – Part 16 in the OHS Code OHS information for work site parties and service providers

This bulletin introduces changes in Noise – Part 16 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code.

### IMPORTANT

This is an overview of updates effective March 31, 2023. Consult the law directly to make sure you comply with all applicable requirements.

### KEY INFORMATION

• Part 16 covers requirements intended to protect workers from exposure to occupational noise hazards.

• Key changes include:

- Revising existing noise exposure limits.
- Updating to technical standards and terminology to reflect current technology.
- A revised action level for conducting a noise exposure assessment.
- A new requirement for fit testing of hearing protection.
- Clarification of the competency of persons conducting noise assessments.

### Noise exposure assessment

The method for conducting a noise exposure assessment is revised from 85 dBA(A) to 82 dBA to ensure noise is assessed below the occupational exposure limit is exceeded. The noise exposure assessment must be conducted in accordance with the updated CSA Standard 2107-18-1, Measurement of noise exposure.

The revised level of a noise dosimeter used to conduct an assessment has been changed to align with the referenced CSA standard for noise assessments. The technical standards that would level meters, integrating sound level meters and dosimeters must meet have been updated to the most current versions.

Established competency requirements for the person conducting the noise exposure assessment are now specified. The person conducting the assessment must be trained in conducting noise exposure assessments.

• Trained in conducting noise exposure assessments.

• Trained in the calibration, operation, and maintenance of equipment used in conducting noise exposure measurements.

• Able to demonstrate an understanding of the method used for measurement.

Revised working classes that employers must ensure the noise exposure assessment includes a record of the tasks carried out by the worker whose noise exposure is being evaluated.

Employers must also retain records for at least three years from the date of the assessment. This now aligns with chemical exposure assessment record retention timelines. Previously, employers were required to keep these records for as long as they operated in Alberta.

### Noise management program

The elements required in a noise management program have been streamlined and updated to remove duplication and improve clarity. The new working more closely align with the elements in the CSA Standard 2107-18, Hearing Loss Prevention Program Management as an industry-level practice for setting up programs to prevent hearing loss.

The revised requirement clarifies that the entire noise management program must be reviewed annually, not just elements of it.

### Fit testing of hearing protection

A new requirement has been added for employers to ensure workers are fit tested for their hearing protection devices they use and wear. Fit testing of the devices must meet the updated CSA Standard 284.2-14 (R2016), Hearing Protection Devices – Performance, Selection, Care, and Use.

This change is intended to prevent noise induced hearing loss. The effectiveness of hearing protection is greatly reduced if the equipment does not fit correctly or is not inserted or worn correctly.

### standard reference

Reference to the Alberta Electrical and Communication Code is included. The new reference to 5801-14, Standard on Electric Utility Workplace Safety for Maintenance, Transmission, and is referenced to align with the updated safety industry already follows.

### of approach distances

to the provisions of Section 225 in Part 17 safe limit of approach distances) has been to clarify that it applies to any utility worker who is employed at a utility.

## Change highlights: Miscellaneous amendments in the OHS Code OHS information for work site parties

This bulletin introduces miscellaneous changes to various parts of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Code.

Note that separate dedicated bulletins have been published for parts of the OHS Code that had more extensive changes (such as Part 11 – First Aid, Part 16 – Noise exposure, etc.) To learn more, see the publications listed at the end of this bulletin.

### IMPORTANT

This is an overview of updates effective March 31, 2023. Consult the law directly to make sure you comply with all applicable requirements.

### KEY INFORMATION

• Key changes include:

- Harmonizing standards for certain types of personal protective equipment to Canada.
- Providing flexibility in implementing some requirements in the application.
- Removal of duplication in requirements.
- Aligning with the OHS Act.

### Part 1 – Definitions and general application

Definitions in Section 1 have been amended, and the definitions have been added to the OHS Code. The amended definitions align with changes in specific sections of the OHS Code to provide additional clarity or align with the OHS Act.

### Section 3, which specifies technical standards as adopted by the OHS Code, has been revised. This change removes duplication, aligns the standards in Section 3, and already referenced throughout the OHS Code.

### Part 3: Specifications and certifications

Section 12 in Part 3 has been amended to include regulations. This change was made to align with changes to the OHS Act that came into effect on December 1, 2021.

### Part 5 – Confined spaces

Section 52, which covers testing the atmosphere of a confined space before entry, has been amended to improve clarity, remove duplication, and ensure the appropriate work site party is responsible for health and safety (in alignment with roles and responsibilities specified in the OHS Act). The revised working class is the employer's responsibility to ensure the atmosphere of a confined space is tested by a competent worker before a worker enters the space.

### Section 53 has been amended to allow the option of using remote confined space entry monitoring systems. This change will reduce administrative burden for employers by removing the need to apply for approvals to use this technology.

### New definitions for "remote monitoring system" and "tending worker" have been included in Part 1 for clarity.

### Part 6 – Cranes, hoists, and lifting devices

Section 67 has been amended to require inspections of a hoist more at reasonable intervals instead of daily. This will give employers flexibility in making sure equipment is inspected when required.

### Part 9 – Fall protection; Part 18 – Personal protective equipment; Part 39 – Tree care operations; Part 41 – Work requiring rope access

Changes to these parts involve updating technical standards to reflect current practices and technology in health and safety. This change supports harmonization of personal protective equipment requirements across Canada.

In alignment with the updates to these technical standards, the applicable manufacturing date for the personal protective equipment referenced in these parts has been updated as well. Personal protective equipment that previously had to meet a technical standard if manufactured on or after July 1, 2020 now has to meet the updated standard if manufactured on or after March 31, 2023.

Note employers do not need to purchase new personal protective equipment if the already-owned equipment meets the standard that was in place at the time of its manufacture.

## Change highlights: First aid – Part 11 in the OHS Code OHS information for work site parties and training providers

This bulletin introduces changes in First Aid – Part 11 of the Occupational Health and Safety Code.

### IMPORTANT

This is an overview of updates effective March 31, 2023. Consult the law directly to make sure you comply with all applicable requirements.

Employers who have basic first aid training, under the updated OHS Code, the first aider will certify by taking a basic first aid course from an approved training provider.

### First aid services, supplies and equipment

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# More information

## OHS Contact Center:

Phone: [780-415-8690](tel:780-415-8690) (Edmonton)

Toll free: [1-866-415-8690](tel:1-866-415-8690)

TTY: [780-427-9999](tel:780-427-9999) (Edmonton)

TTY: [1-800-232-7215](tel:1-800-232-7215)

## OHS Publication store:

<https://ohs-pubstore.labour.alberta.ca/>

## OHS Code Review:

<https://www.alberta.ca/ohs-code-review.aspx>

## OHS Code Review:

[LBR.OHSReview@gov.ab.ca](mailto:LBR.OHSReview@gov.ab.ca)

# Upcoming Resources

- Change highlight Bulletin for Part 33 – Explosives
- Change highlight Bulletin for Part 36 – Mining.
- Consolidated legislation electronic version of the OHS Code late March 2023.
- OHS handbooks can be pre-ordered from the King's Printer, but will not be available until March 2023.
- More presentations.

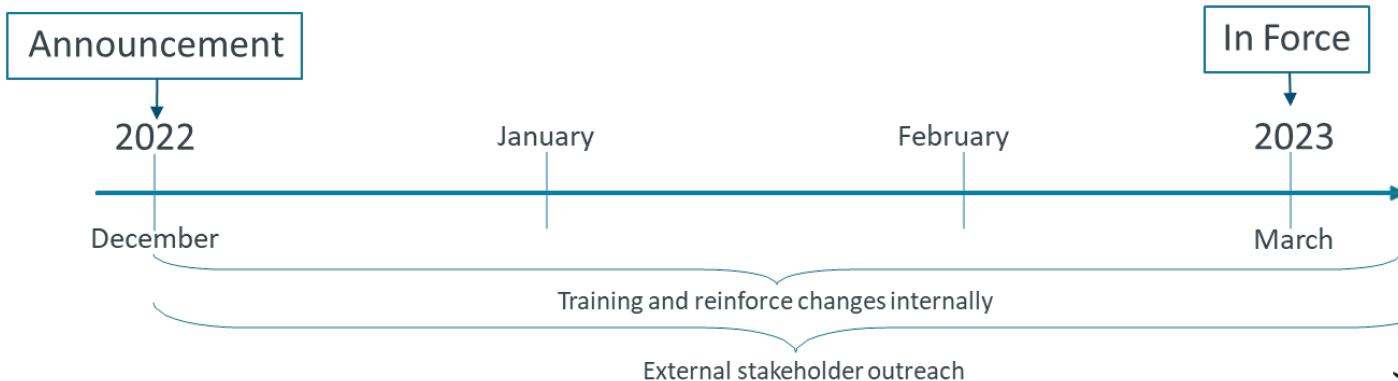
# Implementation

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How will enforcement look?

# Implementation

- No change in overall enforcement approach – education until March 31, 2023 when new provisions come into force.
- OHS Code changes are technical requirement changes so not the same as changes in 2018 or 2021.
- Additional resources will be built as need arises.

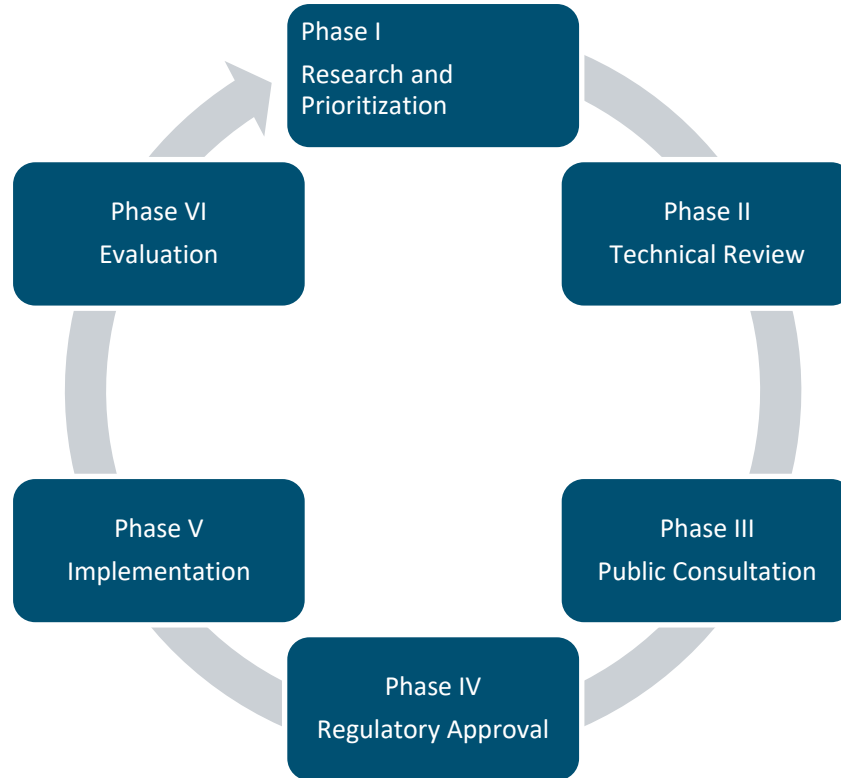


# OHS Code Review Plan

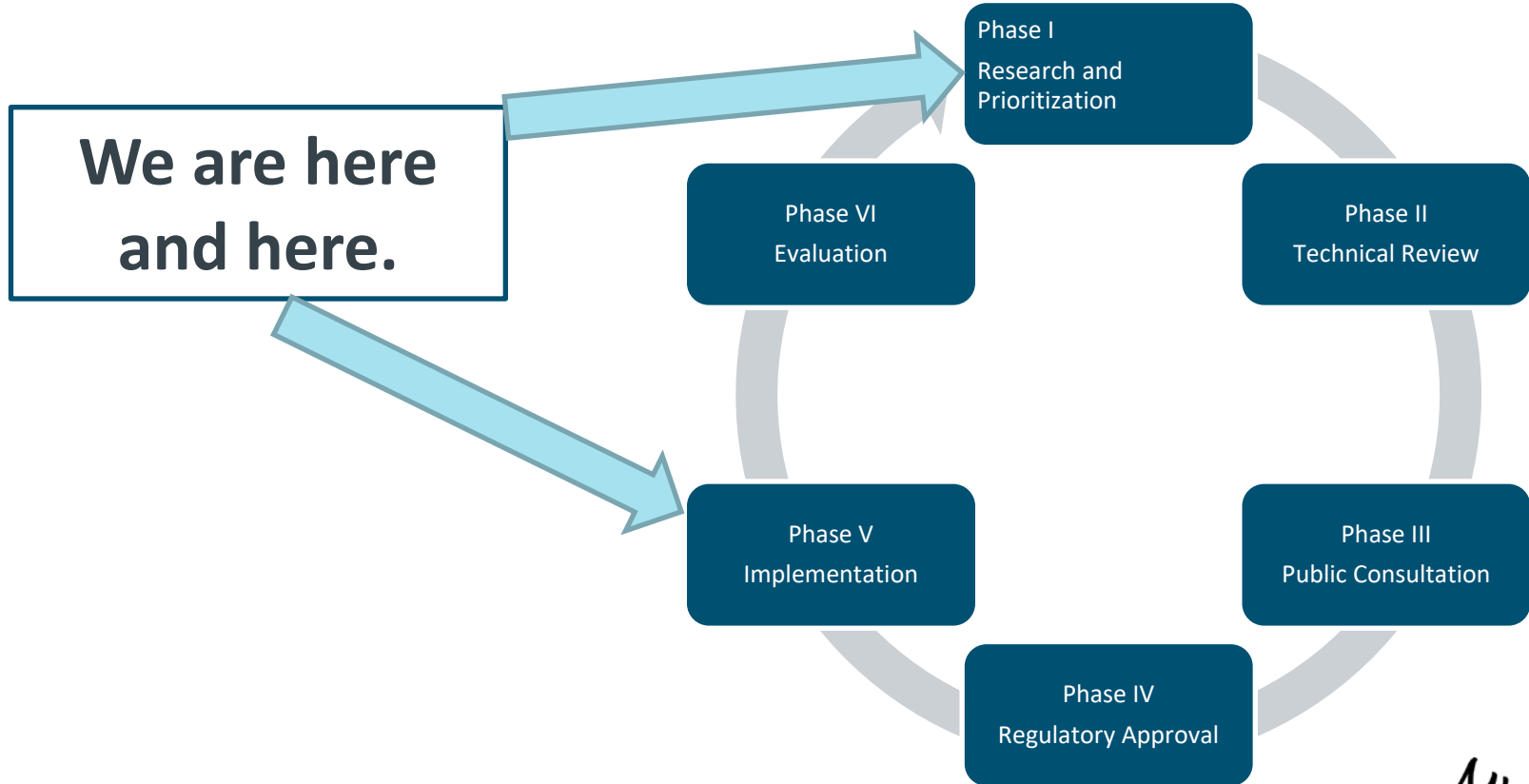
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The content and the process

# OHS Code Review Process

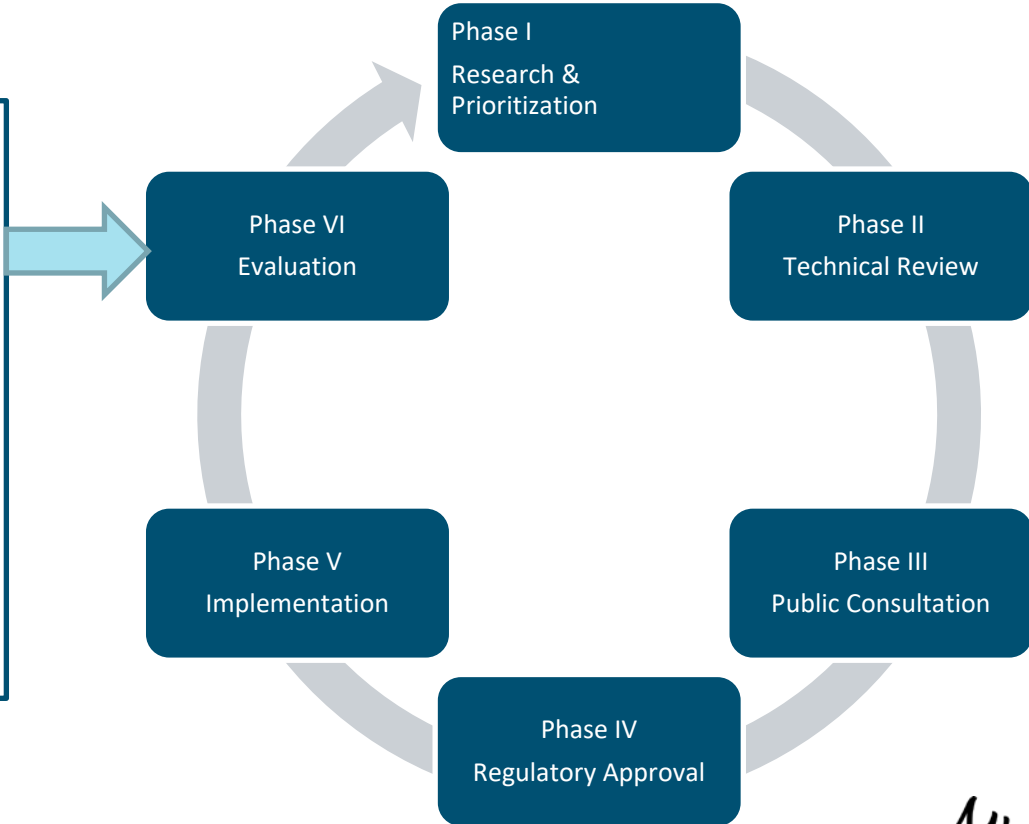


# OHS Code Review Process



# OHS Code Review Process

**Stakeholders  
can play a vital  
role in this area  
by gathering  
information  
about changes.**





# Priority review

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Issued allowances, approvals, acceptances and recognitions

OHS recommendations from public fatality inquiries (if any)

OHS items in current work plan under the CFTA

Correction of errors and modernizing language

# Next Phases of OHS Code Review

## 2023-24

Part 27

Part 33

Part 36

OELs

## 2024-25

Part 3

Part 4

Part 6

Part 10

Part 18

Part 26

Part 28

Part 34

## 2025-26

Part 2

Part 3

Part 4

Part 7

Part 12

Part 14

Part 24

Part 26

Part 28

Part 30

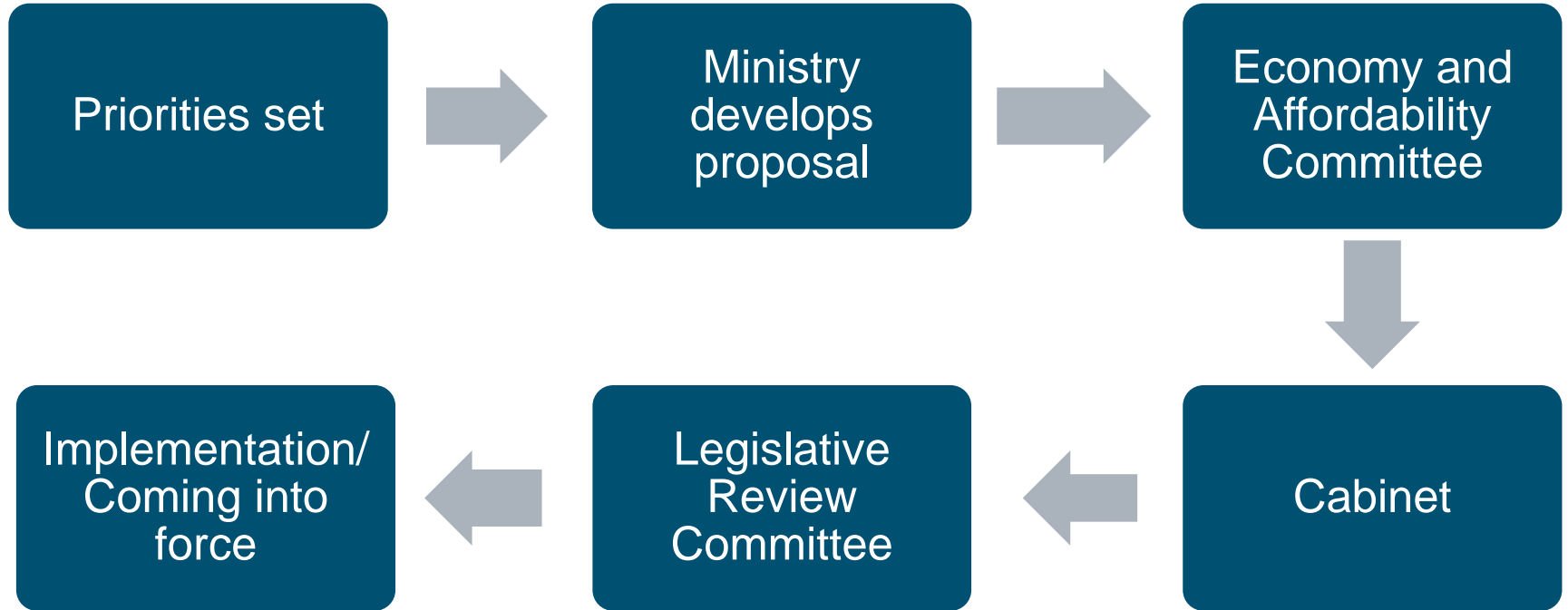
Part 32

Part 34

Part 35

# Approval Process for OHS Code Changes

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# Certifying Partner role

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1

Share resources with members.

2

Update training as required.

3

Survey and compile feedback about legislation changes.

4

Participate in engagement and consultation for future phases of legislation changes.

# Thank you!

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We'd be happy to  
take any questions.

