

# Power Line Hazards Certification Training Standard



Those involved in the high risk area of working near power lines can prevent serious injury or death if they take the necessary precautions required to ensure their safety. Section 483 of the Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Regulations states that “a person shall not operate a mobile crane, boom truck or similar equipment without having first completed a safety training program on power line hazards as prescribed by WorkplaceNL.

WorkplaceNL has developed a Power Line Hazards (PLH) Certification Training Course which will provide participants with the knowledge and skills required to prevent injury and death caused by contact with power lines and the emergency response to contact if it occurs.

## **Requirements for Power Line Hazards Certification Training**

Based on Section 483 of the OHS Regulations, those who operate a mobile crane, boom truck or similar equipment must:

- a) Complete the half-day Power Line Hazards (PLH) Certification Training Course delivered by a certified power line hazards trainer; and
- b) Recertify every three years by completing a Power Line Hazards (PLH) Certification Training Course by a certified Power Line Hazards (PLH) trainer.

### Requirements to be certified as a Power Line Hazards Training Provider

Training providers must apply and be approved by WorkplaceNL to deliver PLH Certification Training.

The *Workplace Health, Safety and Compensation Act, 2022* requires all employers performing work (directly or through a contract) in Newfoundland and Labrador to register with WorkplaceNL. All certified training providers who employ workers or contract work must be in compliance with the registration, reporting and payment requirements of WorkplaceNL. Training providers will be checked for compliance with these requirements and those who do not comply will be denied certification as a training provider.

WorkplaceNL may approve and register PLH Certification Training Providers if they satisfy criteria with respect to:

1. Competent PLH Trainer(s);
2. Delivery of PLH Certification Training as prescribed by WorkplaceNL;
3. Documentation, record keeping and adherence to administrative requirements of WorkplaceNL; and
4. Maintaining program integrity and delivery.

In order for PLH training providers to maintain approval, they must ensure that each trainer is delivering a minimum of one PLH certification training programs in a calendar year. Policy HS-03 Occupational Health and Safety Certification Training, provides additional information regarding approval processes, program delivery, administration and monitoring, and maintenance of approval status.

#### 1. Competent Power Line Hazards Trainers

A trainer must have approval by WorkplaceNL to deliver PLH certification training. To be approved the trainer must:

- a) Meet the minimum criteria;
- b) Complete course content review session as prescribed by WorkplaceNL; and
- c) Pass a trainer assessment as prescribed by WorkplaceNL.

The following is the minimum criteria to be considered for PLH trainers:

- a) High school diploma or equivalency,
- b) OHS education, experience and training:
  - i. Safety designation; or
  - ii. Post-secondary OHS certificate or diploma; or
  - iii. Five years demonstrated safety knowledge and competency.
- c) Two years demonstrated relevant field experience (working on or near power lines);
- d) Adult education experience:
  - i. Proof of certification in adult education/training principles; or
  - ii. Two consecutive years instructing adult learners with a minimum of three courses instructed per year.
- e) Current certification from a WorkplaceNL approved training provider;
- f) "Competent" and "qualified" as defined by the NL OHS Regulations in the applicable standard;
- g) Proficient knowledge of Occupational Health and Safety Regulations and current Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Standards specific to the applicable standard.

Each trainer must deliver a minimum of one PLH certification training programs per calendar year. WorkplaceNL may suspend and / or decertify a trainer, at any time, in circumstances where it becomes satisfied that:

- a) A trainer failed to deliver training that meets WorkplaceNL's certification training standard;
- b) A trainer has failed a quality control audit; or
- c) A trainer has breached the Trainer Code of Ethics.

Policy HS-03 Occupational Health and Safety Certification Training, provides additional information regarding approval processes, program delivery, administration and monitoring, and maintenance of approval status.

## **2. Delivery of Power Line Hazards Certification Training as prescribed by WorkplaceNL**

PLH training providers must ensure PLH trainers deliver training according to WorkplaceNL's PLH certification training standard and use the training materials and delivery method prescribed by WorkplaceNL.

Any changes made to the PLH training program must be submitted and approved by WorkplaceNL.

### **2.1 Teaching Materials and Aids**

Participants must be provided with appropriate learning guides and workbooks. Reference materials are kept by participants after the successful completion of the training program for support in workplace activities.

Programs must involve a variety of learning activities that are appropriate and suitable for all learners such as case studies, role plays, simulations, brainstorming, group discussions and self-evaluation/feedback.

### **2.2 Evaluation and feedback**

Ongoing evaluation of learning is required and is accomplished by incorporating feedback of evaluation throughout the training to ensure participant learning outcomes are achieved. It also provides opportunity for trainers to receive feedback on content, training delivery and the learning environment.

Training programs must be a minimum of four hours in duration

Class size must be conducive to participation and interaction among participants, and as such, a maximum class cannot exceed 20 participants.

WorkplaceNL will monitor the effectiveness of training and PLH training provider activities by any or all of the following:

- a) Reviewing participant evaluation forms;
- b) Receiving and responding to concerns;
- c) Reviewing administrative processes used by PLH training providers and trainers;
- d) Monitoring performance of PLH training providers and trainers through the completion of random quality assurance audits; or
- e) Other appropriate means.

### 3. Documentation, record keeping and adherence to administrative requirements of WorkplaceNL

PLH training providers must maintain records of trainers and certification training programs by:

- a) Collecting and maintaining participant training records;
- b) Submitting training records as prescribed by WorkplaceNL's Certification Training Registry;
- c) Collecting and maintaining records of competent and qualified trainers including their names and contact information; high school diploma or equivalent, and relevant training work experience;
- d) Developing and implementing internal auditing systems to ensure trainers are following the PLH certification training standard;
- e) Providing WorkplaceNL with participant's evaluations upon request for data analysis and quality assurance purposes;
- f) Submitting any information regarding the PLH certification training program to WorkplaceNL as a means of measuring the effectiveness of WorkplaceNL in meeting its objectives; and
- g) Following WorkplaceNL's administration processes for delivery of certification training.

If a training provider elects to issue a certificate of attendance to a participant, the document must clearly indicate the type of certification training, the name of the training provider and trainer, the participant's name, date of successful completion, and date of expiry. The official record of certification will be housed on WorkplaceNL's Certification Training Registry.

#### 3.1 Recertification

Recertification is required every three years from the date of initial certification. It is the responsibility of the certificate holder to register and participate in certification training programs every three years.

### 4. Maintaining Program Integrity and Delivery

To ensure the PLH certification training program integrity, all training providers/trainers must strictly adhere to the content of the certification training standard and training programs being delivered.

#### 4.1 Monitoring of program integrity and delivery

To ensure that certification training standards are met and maintained, WorkplaceNL will conduct random quality assurance audits and investigate all allegations of non-compliance to determine if training providers and their trainers are adhering to the contents of this standard. As per Policy HS-03 Occupational Health and Safety Certification Training, the status of a certified training provider or trainer may be revoked or suspended if WorkplaceNL has reason to believe the above certification training standard is not being met.



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