

National Occupational Standard for Agricultural Occupational Health and Safety Specialists

Occupational Health and Safety on Canada's Farms

According to a recent study, only 9% of Canadian producers have a safety plan in place. Compare that to the fact that between 1990 and 2008 there were, on average, 104 accidental fatalities every year on Canadian farms. The need for Agricultural Occupational Health and Safety Specialists on Canadian farms is quite clear.

National Occupational Standard

The Canadian Agricultural Safety Association (CASA) in cooperation with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resources Council (CAHRC) conducted a National Occupational Analysis to research and identify the skills, knowledge and competencies required for the role of an Agricultural Occupational Health and Safety Specialist. This research led to the development of the National Occupational Standard (NOS).

The Standard informs producers and consultants of the knowledge and skills required to develop, implement and maintain safety plans on Canadian farms. This document can be used to evaluate if a producer is knowledgeable about their on-farm safety requirements; determine if they need to hire new staff and consultants; or improve process and training for producers who have already implemented safety plans.

The NOS can be used by a variety of different individuals who are responsible for occupational health and safety for agricultural producers such as:

- Occupational Health and Safety Consultants
- On-farm Occupational Health and Safety Specialists
- Occupational Health and Safety Inspectors and Auditors
- Farm Managers

Note: The Government of Canada has developed a National Occupational Classification (NOC) system to organize the world of work.
<http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/noc/english/noc/2011/AboutNOC.aspx>

Development

The development of the Agricultural Occupational Health and Safety Specialist National Occupational Standard (NOS) was overseen by an advisory group of producers, researchers and industry association representatives. In addition, producers throughout Canada reviewed and provided feedback on this research to ensure they accurately captured all of the knowledge and skills that are required for agricultural occupational health and safety.

Using the Document

The NOS provides information to help individuals clearly identify the occupational health and safety needs of Canada's agricultural producers. Producers or consultants can take the information and adapt it as needed or only use the sections of the document that they find the most useful.

Some potential uses of this document include:

- Developing procedural documents
- Creating job postings and job descriptions for new staff
- Performing a self-assessment or assessing your staff
- Developing a safety plan
- Determining which requirements require the assistance of a vendor or consultant



Document Summary

The following is a summary of the Major Task Areas an OH&S Specialist would be responsible for. This information can be found in the Agricultural Occupational Health and Safety Specialist National Occupational Standard. For information regarding the full document, contact CASA at info@casa-acsa.ca.

Major Task Areas

- Develop Agricultural OH&S Programs
- Manage Agricultural OH&S Programs
- Provide Agricultural OH&S Training
- Facilitate Agricultural OH&S Compliance
- Promote Agricultural OH&S Culture
- Perform Accident/Incident Investigations

Sample Section

Each Major Task Area includes a list of Tasks associated with the role and the requisite technical and functional requirements for successful performance. The information is organized in a meaningful structure to ensure clarity. These Tasks provide plenty of critical information that can help you prepare new programs and documents to support agricultural occupational health and safety. Below is a sample from the full document:

Task B4: Manage Claims

Occupational Context: Agricultural OH&S Specialists need to be able to manage claims efficiently and effectively.

Performance Context: When an Agricultural OH&S Specialist is performing this task correctly claims are handled properly and in a timely manner.

Importance of this Task	Of the Tasks in this NOS:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 0 out of 22 validation participants considered this task to be one of the MOST Important• 13 out of 22 validation participants considered this task to be one of the LEAST Important
Rating	This Task is rated as LESS Important

Subtasks			
B4.01	Review claims history	B4.05	Monitor return to work activities
B4.02	Generate appropriate documentation	B4.06	Maintain documentation
B4.03	Liaise with stakeholders (internal & external)	B4.07	Involve WCB or other insurance agencies in presentations on the cost of claims
B4.04	Establish return to work/rehab plan	B4.08	Monitor and follow up

***Each section also includes: supporting technical knowledge, Essential Skills requirements, and details on the best place to learn how to perform this task.*

How we Help

The staff at CASA is available to answer any of your questions about the standards and guide you through the process of using them on your farm.

Contact us at: 1-877-452-2272. info@casa-acsa.ca



Canadian Agricultural Safety Association
Association canadienne de sécurité agricole