

Agricultural Health and Safety Policies and Their Implications on Trade



CASA

- Who?
 - Canadian Agricultural Safety Association
- What?
 - To have Canadian Agriculture free of workplace injuries and illnesses.
- Where ?
 - 5A-1325 Markham Road, Winnipeg R3T 4J6
- Why?
 - Statistics show that Agriculture is a dangerous workplace.
- How?
 - 4 year funding from AAFC to address priorities.



CASA's Priority Areas

- Influencing government and industry policy
- Fostering collaboration
- Communicating the message
- Impacting farm safety
- Acting as a facilitator and initiator



The Questions?

- What has Canada committed to internationally?
- Is Canada in compliance?
- How does Canada compare to other nations?

Lastly

- Could Canada's ag health & safety policies, as they relate to farmers and farm workers affect trade?



3 Levels

- International
 - ILO
 - WTO
 - WHO
- National
 - Service Canada (HRSDC)
- Provincial
 - Occupational Health and Safety
 - Workers' Compensation
 - Labour Standards



The International Level



The ILO

- International Labour Organization
- UN Specialized agency which seeks the promotion of social justice and internationally recognized human and labour rights
- The ILO formulates international labour standards
 - Conventions and Recommendations



The ILO

- A Convention is the “What”
- A Recommendation is the “How”

The ILO

- Canada has adopted 12 Conventions relative to agriculture
- C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour
- C184 Safety and Health in Agriculture



Convention 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour

- Ratified by Canada in June 2000
- Child refers to all persons under the age of 18

Convention 182 Worst Forms of Child Labour

- Possible application to agriculture

Article 3 (d) work which, by its nature or the circumstances in which it is carried out is likely to harm the health, safety or morals of children.

How?

CAISP

- Canadian Agriculture Injury Surveillance Program
- A report prepared by CAISP compiled Canada's experience with agricultural related injury

CAISP

- Children and youth aged 1 – 19 years accounted for 14.6% of all work related agricultural fatalities.
- Children and youth ages 1 – 19 years accounted for 18.7% of hospitalized agricultural injuries.

Convention 182

- Canada's statistics demonstrate the unsafe nature of the farm work environment for children.
- There is a moral obligation to work toward changing the statistics

Convention 184 and Recommendation 192

- National policy on safety and health in ag
- Policy aimed at preventing accidents and injury to health by eliminating, minimizing or controlling hazards
- Adequate and appropriate system of inspection for the agricultural workplaces



Convention 184 and Recommendation 192

- That machinery, tools and protective equipment comply with national standards and be appropriately installed, maintained and safeguarded
- Machinery and equipment be operated by trained and competent persons



Convention 184 and Recommendation 192

- Other areas covered
 - Young workers and hazardous work
 - Animal handling and protection against biological risk
 - Temporary and seasonal workers
 - Women workers
 - Working time arrangements



The ILO

- Member state in good standing
- Continuous review of internal ag health and safety policies as they relate to:
 - Farmers
 - Farm Families
 - Farm Workers



The National Level



Service Canada (HRSDC)

- Responsible for ensuring Canada is represented at the ILO
- Responsible for notifying Canadian jurisdictions
- Responsible for reporting Canada's compliance or non compliance from a federal perspective



Convention 184 Compliance or Non Compliance

- 3 jurisdictions OHS legislation and regulations do not apply to ag workers
- No specific provisions in legislation on management of chemicals, reassignment of pregnant or nursing workers, manual handling of animals and materials; and safety and ergonomics of machinery



Recommendation 192

- Some jurisdictions do not require accommodation and protective equipment to be provided at no cost to workers



The Provincial Level



Provincial – OHS Legislation

- By the end of 2006, nine provinces will have legislation identifying the farm as a workplace.



What Does This All Mean

- At the International level;
 - ILO
 - WTO
- At the National level
- At the Provincial level



Questions

- What has Canada committed to internationally?
- Is Canada in compliance?
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Lastly

- Could Canada's ag health & safety policies, as they relate to farmers and farm workers affect trade?



Answers

- Canada is making efforts to ensure and demonstrate compliance relative to its international commitments
- Canada ranks well with other developed nations as a participative global citizen as it relates to the ILO, WTO and WHO
- Canada's ag health & safety policies as they relate to farmers and farm workers will not affect trade

AAFC could

- Ensure the Ag sector councils include OH&S
- Work with Public Health Agency to continue data collection
- Work with Service Canada for accessible child care in rural areas
- Publicly state that the Health and Safety of people who work in the Agricultural Workplace is important.

How does this apply to a “Farm Bill”

- International commitments by the federal government with respect to agricultural workers and types of hazardous work.
- Farms (9 of 10 provinces) are considered workplaces

Canadian Farm Bill

Should include:

- A financial commitment to improve Safety and Health in the agricultural workplace.
- Build a climate that will allow farmers and their families to work safely.

For 2 reasons:

- International commitment
- Moral responsibility

A photograph of three people and a dog in a garage. In the center is an older man wearing a white polo shirt, blue jeans, a grey baseball cap, and glasses, with his arms crossed. To his left is a woman in a blue long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, also with her arms crossed. To his right is a younger man in a grey t-shirt and blue jeans, with his arms crossed. In the foreground, a black and white dog is sitting. The background shows a garage with a white door and various tools and equipment.

**Even superheroes
have sidekicks**

Work together to make your farm safe for everyone