

Voluntary Registration Policy

Questions & Answers for Employers, Employer Representatives and Other External Stakeholders

Q. Why is the WSIB reinstating Voluntary Registration (VR)?

A. At the March 1, 2007 session before the Standing Committee on Government Agencies, the WSIB committed to the fairer treatment of non-compliant employers who voluntarily disclose their non-compliance and register their business with the WSIB. The WSIB believes employers are more likely to comply with the *Workplace Safety and Insurance Act (WSIA)* if they are provided with favourable terms for registration and have the information, advice, and other services they need to meet their obligations.

Q. What is the purpose of VR?

A. The purpose of VR is to help protect the integrity of the insurance fund and to help create a level playing field for employers.

Q. What are the benefits of VR?

A. Voluntary registration:

- provides the WSIB with a common-sense way to help employers, particularly small business employers, meet their obligation to register under the *WSIA*,
- creates favourable terms for employers who voluntarily come forward and register their business, rather than be discovered through WSIB enforcement activities, and
- recognizes the different circumstances associated with voluntary and non-voluntary registrations by providing incentives to employers who voluntarily register their business with the WSIB.

Q. How is the WSIB communicating this change in policy to employers and their representatives?

A. The new policy is being communicated via the WSIB website, print advertising, and in a notice to key stakeholder groups.

Q. When can employers register their business under VR?

A. As of October 29, 2007, employers can register their business under VR.

Q. How can employers initiate registration under the new VR policy?

A. Registration can be initiated by telephone, letter, facsimile, e-mail or in-person.

Q. Does VR apply to employers who are identified through other means?

A. No, the incentives provided under the new policy do not apply to employers who are identified through WSIB-related investigation processes, such as: information sharing agreement with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA), revenue recovery activities, the results of an audit discovery, employer registrations initiated by an injury to a worker, the results of a WSIB special investigation, or similar circumstances where the employer clearly did not step forward to register voluntarily.

Q. How is VR being rolled out?

A. VR is being rolled out in two stages. Each provides favourable terms to employers who step forward and voluntarily disclose their status to the WSIB. Note that the sooner an employer voluntarily registers, the better the terms for registration. The two stages are as follows:

Full Amnesty – October 29, 2007 to March 31, 2008 inclusive

The WSIB will provide full amnesty to employers who register their business with the WSIB between October 29, 2007 and March 31, 2008 inclusive. Full amnesty means no retroactive premiums, no penalties or reconciliation interest and no prosecution under the *Provincial Offences Act* at the time of registration. In addition, the effective date for registration will be the date of voluntary disclosure or the contact date*.

Example

Date Help First Employed	Date of Voluntary Disclosure/Contact Date*	Effective Date of Registration
February 10, 1997	November 1, 2007	November 1, 2007
September 10, 2007	January 15, 2008	January 15, 2008

* Date information received to initiate registration

Permanent Program – April 1, 2008 onwards

The WSIB will provide partial amnesty to employers who register their business with the WSIB on or after April 1, 2008. Partial amnesty means no penalties for not reporting, no reconciliation interest on retroactive premiums, and no prosecution under the *Provincial Offences Act* at the time of registration. However, during this period, the effective date for registration is the date of first hire, or January 1 of the year preceding the date of voluntary registration, whichever is later. This means employers will be required to pay premiums for the current year plus one prior year.

Example

Date Help First Employed	Date of Voluntary Disclosure/Contact Date*	Effective Date of Registration
September 1, 2008	September 15, 2008	September 1, 2008
February 10, 1997	September 15, 2008	January 1, 2007

* Date information received to initiate registration

Contact Information

For further information, or to register your business, call 1-800-387-0080, or contact the WSIB office nearest you. Check the Office Locator on the WSIB website www.wsib.on.ca to find the nearest WSIB office.