



Issue Update

9th Deregulation Report Released

The Ministry of Small Business and Economic Development has released the ninth quarterly report on deregulation. The report shows an elimination of nearly 140,000 regulations and an addition of 25,981 new regulations for a net decrease of 113,440 since June 1, 2001.

In the past quarter deregulation activities have included the significant changes in apprenticeship and industry training, and safety systems. The new *Industry Training Authority Act* came into force January 2 of this year resulting in the elimination of previous legislation and regulation governing ITAC. The Ministry of Community, Aboriginal, and Women's Services introduced the new *Safety Standards Act* thereby consolidating the *Electrical Safety Act*, *Gas Safety Act*, *Elevating Devices Safety Act*, *Power Engineers and Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety Act* and sections of the *Railway Safety Act*. This consolidation resulted in a more streamlined legislative framework and reduced regulations accordingly.

Other deregulation activity included the new *Business Corporations Act* and regulation which replaced the previous *Company Act* and regulation and amended portions of the *Company Clauses Act* and the *Society Act*. The new Act is designed to provide greater flexibility to companies in the areas of corporate governance, management and finance. The Act also allows for electronic filing of corporate documents through a new e-government service called Corporate Online. Customers can now file documents such as incorporations, changes of address, and annual reports through a secure website.

At the WCB, policies of the Board of Directors have been reviewed and updated and in this past quarter 39 Decisions of the Workers' Compensation Reporter have been retired resulting in the elimination of 343 regulatory requirements. Since 2001 there has been a total of 418 Decisions retired resulting in a total of 2,349 regulations eliminated. The review and consolidation of policies is expected to result in a system that is more transparent and accessible for users.

The Ministry of Transport has streamlined its Hired Equipment Process and is planning to introduce deregulation legislation impacting the *Railway Act*, and the *Highway (Industrial) Act*. Also in the works is a new *Transportation Act* which will consolidate all highway and transportation legislation into one organized and plain language format.

The full report as well as a detailed breakdown of regulatory requirements eliminated or added across the various provincial ministries can be obtained on the BC Government website at: <http://www.deregulation.gov.bc.ca/>

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