

Frequently Asked Questions

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Who is the BC Safety Authority?

The British Columbia Safety Authority is the Province's delegated authority that mandates the safe installation and use of technical equipment. We're a not-for-profit organization that administers safety standards through education, and through issuing permits and licences. We enforce compliance to standards and conduct onsite inspections – particularly in high-risk situations. We research trends to advance the standard of safe practices in our province.

Why was the BC Safety Authority created?

We were created as a result of an extensive Safety Systems Review process conducted by the Province of British Columbia between 1995 and 1997. The process concluded that safety services could be delivered more efficiently by a non-government body under appropriate legislation, guidelines and supervision.

Is the BC Safety Authority a government agency?

No. We are an independent, not-for-profit organization created under the *Safety Authority Act* by the Province of British Columbia in 2004. We are authorized to administer the *Safety Standards Act* and parts of the *Railway Safety Act*.

What provides the BC Safety Authority with its authority?

Under the *Safety Standards Act* and the *Railway Safety Act*, the BC Safety Authority has been delegated responsibility for the administration of those Acts. The Authority has also entered into two *Administrative Agreements* with the Province of British Columbia, which define the terms and conditions of the delegation. The Province retains responsibility for policy direction and approval of regulations.

IMPROVING THE SAFETY SYSTEM:

What industry sectors does the BC Safety Authority oversee?

We are responsible for overseeing the safety of the following industry sectors in BC:

- amusement rides
- boilers, pressure vessels and refrigeration systems
- electrical equipment and systems*
- elevating devices, such as elevators and escalators
- natural gas or propane appliances and systems, including hydrogen*
- passenger ropeways such as aerial trams and ski lifts, and
- railways, including rapid transit

(*Some municipalities administer the Electrical Safety Regulation and the Gas safety Regulation.)

What services does the BC Safety Authority provide?

In order to prevent accidents, our services include:

- Inspecting technical work and equipment, including collecting information through incident investigation and registering new equipment and designs
- Taking enforcement actions in respect of non compliances
- Educating the public about safety issues



- Certifying individuals & licensing contractors
- Supporting clients in the development of equivalent standards approaches, and auditing their safety management plans
- Conducting research and assisting the Province in the development of legislation and the adoption of codes and standards.

Does the BC Safety Authority work with industry to improve the public safety system?

Yes, through our consultation program, we've created six technology advisory committees representing the industry sectors we oversee. These committees, supported by issue-specific subcommittees, are made up of highly qualified representatives who meet regularly to discuss emerging regulatory, policy, technical and service delivery issues.

What action can you take if someone does not comply with safety regulations?

We can use enforcement actions as set out in legislation. These include the following:

- Revocation or suspension of a contractor's licence
- Revocation or suspension of a certificate of qualification
- Imposition of a monetary penalty
- Issuance of a compliance order

How does the BC Safety Authority promote public safety?

We:

- Conduct client information sessions on code and technical changes
- Produce and distribute safety information
- Run public education programs
- Participate in trade and consumer shows throughout the province
- Present the annual Lieutenant Governor's Awards for Public Safety, and
- Provide current and regulatory information through our website.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY:

Is the BC Safety Authority financially self-sustaining?

Yes. Public safety requires sound financial management. We are required by law to be financially independent and self-sustaining. The fees we charge our clients must cover the actual costs of providing essential safety services. In addition, we have established a three-month operating reserve.

How does the BC Safety Authority generate revenue?

Revenue is generated from fees charged for installation and operating permits, licensing, certification, equipment approval and design registration. We evaluate our fees through a formalized public consultation process with the industry sectors we oversee.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Please see our Fact Sheet, go to our website at <http://www.safetyauthority.ca/news/media-resources> or contact:

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