



Niagara Regional Housing

# Notice

No: 12-18

APPLICABLE TO:

DATE: November 8, 2012

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Municipal & Private Non Profit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Co-operative
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal Non Profit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	OCHAP/CSHP
<input type="checkbox"/>	Rent Supplement

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mandatory
<input type="checkbox"/>	For Information

**SUBJECT: Changes to WSIB coverage**

## BACKGROUND

The Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) administers Ontario's no-fault workplace insurance for employers and their workers. As part of this system, WSIB provides disability benefits, monitors the quality of health care and assists in early, safe return to work for workers injured on the job or who contract an occupational disease.

### Changes for the Construction Industry

The construction industry is essential to Ontario's economy. So is the safety of its workforce. With that in mind, the Ontario government has expanded mandatory coverage in the construction industry to help level the playing field. Underground economy practices in the construction industry threaten health and safety and undermine the workers' compensation system. It is important to make sure that everyone is paying their fair share.

**Starting on January 1, 2013, nearly everyone who works in the construction industry must have WSIB coverage.** The law already requires employers to cover their workers.

Coverage will extend to most of the following business owners in the construction industry:

- Independent operators (new)
- Sole proprietors (new)
- Partners in partnerships (new)
- Executive officers of corporations (new)

## What is a WSIB clearance?

A clearance confirms a contractor or subcontractor is registered with the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) and has their account(s) in good standing. For an account to be in good standing, the contractor must meet these requirements:

- has an open account with the WSIB
- is classified in the appropriate classification unit(s)
- has reported to the WSIB all required premium amounts
- has paid all premiums and other amounts owing

## What is a clearance used for?

A clearance relieves a business (or principal) that retains a contractor of the liability for the contractor's WSIB insurance premiums owing in connection with the work or service being performed.

Please visit [www.beregisteredbeready.ca](http://www.beregisteredbeready.ca) to learn more about mandatory coverage in the construction industry.

## Housing Provider's Role

Housing Providers are required to advise **all contractors** who do work on their properties that they must obtain WSIB coverage and provide a WSIB Certificate of Clearance before work is started on their properties.

Housing Providers must retain copies of all WSIB Certificates of Clearance in the contractor file for audit purposes.

## Service Manager's Role

NRH will review contractor and payment files during operational reviews to ensure compliance with the new provincial requirements.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this notice, please contact your Housing Administrator at (905) 682-9201.

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Lora Beckwith, General Manager