Safety & Care

Young Workers

Young Workers (14 - 25 years of age)

Summary

Every year in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, workers suffer serious injuries. Anyone who lacks training and experience is at risk of getting injured. Young Workers rely on their supervisors for training and guidance. It is key for the employer to create an environment in which workers can ask questions.

Individuals Under 16 Years of Age

No employer shall employ a youth for any of the following unless they first obtain approval in writing from an Employment Standards Officer:

- Construction sites:
- Production processes at any wood working establishment;
- Production processes at smelters, foundries, refineries or metal processing and fabricating;
- Confined space work;
- Forestry or logging operations;
- Operation of powered mobile equipment, a crane, or a hoist;
- Power line construction:
- Where exposure to a chemical or biological substance could endanger the health or safety of the worker:
- Between the hours of 11 pm and 6 am; and
- At times when the youth is to attend school.

Tips and Guidelines

How can young workers protect their health and safety at work?

- Ensure they receive suitable training for assigned tasks;
- Ask questions whenever they are unsure of how to safety and properly perform the work;
- Understand, recognize, and know how to exercise their worker rights: the right to know, participate, and refuse;
- Ensure they have all the equipment necessary to perform their tasks;
- Identify the location of first-aid supplies and fire extinguishers; and
- Ensure their employer provides adequate supervision.

For more information, visit our website to review the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulations* – Section 14(1).



