

What vehicle body repair shops need to know

Safe At Work Ontario
Enforcement > Compliance > Partnership >



The Ministry of Labour's proactive inspections for sector-specific hazards are designed to raise awareness and increase compliance with health and safety legislation and reduce workplace injuries and disease. Workplaces that operate as vehicle body repair facilities expose workers to potentially serious physical hazards and occupational illness.

For six months, beginning in September, Ministry of Labour Health and Safety Inspectors will visit about 800 vehicle body repair workplaces in York, Durham and Peel Regions, Dufferin and Simcoe Counties and Toronto.

Compliance: priority areas

Inspectors will take enforcement action as appropriate for any contraventions found under the Occupational Health and Safety Act and its regulations, but will pay particular attention to the following priority areas when inspecting these premises:

- **Designated substances:** At shops using products containing isocyanates in the paint mixing process, assessments and control programs will be checked for compliance with the Designated Substance Regulation for Isocyanates.
- **Hazardous chemicals:** Controlled products such as solvents, thinners, flammable liquids, and paints are used and stored in these work locations. Information and instruction for workers in the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System as well as training in the proper use and storage of personal protective equipment will be reviewed by the inspector.
- **Flammable liquid storage:** The quantity and type of flammable liquids will be reviewed to determine whether storage and dispensing meet the requirements under the Regulation for Industrial Establishments.
- **Lifting devices:** Fixed and portable lifting devices may be present and used by workers to hoist vehicles. Inspectors will check to ensure that this equipment is used properly, maintained and inspected.
- **Worker training:** Employers must provide workers with information, instruction and supervision to ensure their health and safety is protected.
- **Apprenticeship:** Inspectors will check workers' apprenticeship certification.

Many of the workplaces checked will be visited again by inspectors a year later to confirm continuing compliance with corrections, if any, ordered during the initial visits.

Ministry of Labour Health and Safety Inspectors across the province will be looking for the same hazards in the course of their regular inspection activity.

Compliance information

This industry is subject to regulation from provincial, municipal and federal governments. The Auto Body Repair Compliance Information Centre (CIC) is an online service designed to increase awareness and understanding of government requirements in the auto body repair industry and make it easier for small businesses to understand and meet their regulatory responsibilities.

The CIC provides “one-stop shopping” regulatory information for shop owners by compiling regulatory requirements from several ministries.

The website: www.serviceontario.ca/autobody.

ServiceOntario also provides information in person and over the phone.

More information

- Apprenticeship Services: <http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/tcu/apprentices/>
- Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS):
http://www.ccohs.ca/oshanswers/safety_haz/garages/autobody_repair.html
- Collision Industry Information Assistance: <http://www.ciia.com/> Toll free: 1-866-309-4272
- Ontario Ministry of Labour:
 - Safe At Work Ontario: <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/sawo/index.html>
 - A Guide to the Occupational Health and Safety Act:
<http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/hs/ohsaguide/index.html>
 - Employment Standards: <http://www.labour.gov.on.ca/english/es/index.html>
- Ontario Ministry of the Environment: <http://www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/scb/work/AutoSectorReport.htm>
- Ontario Motor Vehicle Industry Council: <http://www.omvic.on.ca/> Toll free: 1-800-943-6002
- Ontario Service Safety Alliance: <http://www.ossa.com/>

Contact the Ministry of Labour in Central Region:

Central Region includes York, Durham and Peel Regions, Dufferin and Simcoe Counties and the City of Toronto.

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