

# Hazard Control

Bulletin accompaniment to Micro-Learn video COR Episode 5, Element 3

The first component of any safety program is the recognition by senior management that a safety program is an essential part of the operation. In a Certificate of Recognition (COR), or Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR), this is referred to as management commitment.

## What is hazard control?

Hazard control is the process of reducing the health and safety risks of hazards to staff. Ideally, hazards are eliminated; but, if they can't be, the employer needs to take steps to control the risk they pose to workers.

Hazard control is different from hazard assessment. Hazard assessments inform us of hazards and their relative risk levels; hazard control, on the other hand, is an employer actually taking action to mitigate these risks. Hazard assessment and control are both necessary parts of any safety system.



## Hierarchy of control

Not all steps taken to control hazards are equally effective. Employers must use the most effective controls possible, which are represented by the hierarchy of controls. The most effective way to reduce a hazard's risk is to eliminate the hazard completely. If that's not possible, substituting the hazard for a product, machine, or process that is less likely to cause harm is the next best step.

Engineering a solution to prevent people from contacting the hazard comes next, followed by administrative controls which are policies and procedures meant to control behaviour to reduce the likelihood of harm. Finally, personal protective equipment, or PPE, is used to keep people safe from hazards by controlling hazards at the point where they would contact someone's body. Controls of different types can be combined to further reduce risks.

## Examples of hazard control

For example, let's say a driver faces a risk of being struck by a forklift when their truck is being loaded.



The driver could wear a reflective vest to make them more visible and reduce the chances of being struck, which is an example of a PPE control. The yard may have a rule that the driver must remain in the cab of their truck during loading, an administrative control. The yard operator may require the driver to sit inside a waiting area while their truck is loaded, which completely eliminates the hazard while the driver is in the waiting area. It's a best practice to combine controls, such as using the waiting area, wearing PPE, and having rules in place for working alongside forklifts to keep people safe.

### Basic summary of COR Audit requirements

The most important part of this COR element, from an auditor's perspective, is ensuring there is documentation showing the employer has identified controls for all identified hazards and then implemented these controls. This will be done through a combination of interviews with staff, viewing documents, and observing worksites to see if the employer is taking the action it said it would to protect its staff.

### Need help? Contact AMTA

AMTA can provide carriers with guidance on the information presented in this bulletin. If you have any questions, please contact AMTA and our experienced staff will be happy to help. For your safety and compliance questions, please email Workplace Support Services (WSS) directly at [wss@amta.ca](mailto:wss@amta.ca).

For more updates like this on a variety of topics related to the transportation industry, please [sign up for our eNews](#).

### References

The content in these Micro-Learn videos and bulletins is aligned with the content from Partnerships in Injury Reduction and in AMTA's Health and Safety Systems Building course.