

Sun Safety Programs

Sun Safety

Sun Safety at Work Canada defines **sun safety** as measures taken by a workplace to manage outdoor worker exposure to the sun, and to help prevent:

- Adverse eye and skin conditions (for example, sunburn and skin cancer) from over-exposure to solar ultraviolet (UV) radiation
- Heat-related conditions from heat stress associated with exposure to the sun

Sun Safety Programs

A **sun safety program** is part of an organization's *Occupational Health and Safety Management System* or *Occupational Health and Safety Program*.¹ It is focused on the effective prevention and management of health risks associated with sun exposure within the workplace.

Workplaces have a range of systems and processes in place for occupational health and safety (OHS). The **Model Sun Safety Program** assists workplaces in embedding sun safety within their existing systems.

Embedding Sun Safety within the OHS Management System

An *OHS Management System* or *Program* is based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act model of improvement. This emphasizes the role of continual improvement and a coordinated approach to addressing all occupational hazards faced within a workplace.

In a comprehensive *OHS Management System* there are recognized elements for each of the phases of the Plan-Do-Check-Act model. A workplace's OHS policy forms the core of the management system, with other important elements including:

- Hazard identification and risk analysis
- Control measures to eliminate or reduce risks from the hazards
- An inspection program to identify new hazards and to determine whether current control measures are effective
- Worker training and education, particularly regarding safe work practices
- Emergency response planning
- Incident reporting and investigation
- Program administration



1. As informed by *OHSAS 18001:1999* and *CSA Z1000-14*.

Visit sunsafetyatwork.ca for more information.

This fact sheet was prepared by Dr. Thomas Tenkate. Production of this resource has been made possible through financial support from Health Canada through the Canadian Partnership Against Cancer.

Model Sun Safety Program

Sun safety can be appropriately addressed as a workplace hazard through the elements within an *OHS Management System*. Our Model Sun Safety Program elements are represented in the model below. For some of these elements (for example, elimination or substitution), sun safety is

a consideration rather than a comprehensive set of actions. For other elements (for example, sun safety policy or administrative controls), there are a comprehensive range of approaches that are relevant to ensure a sustainable sun safe work environment.

We have developed resources and tools for the elements of the Model Sun Safety Program. These resources are designed to help workplaces implement sun safety in an effective and sustainable way.

