

I recently attended the CUPE SASK OHS Conference in Regina and would like to know if you could answer the following questions regarding Caretakers and Maintenance personnel when performing trade type duties in a school setting?

The following is Sarah Maddia, Occupational Health Officer, Advanced Education, Employment & Labour response.

Are Caretakers and Maintenance workers covered under the Act and Regulations when performing trade type duties?

Yes, an example would be to consider the regulations for ladders and machine safety are based on typical work activities done by trades people working for a construction employer. However, for anyone doing building maintenance the work activities they are expected to perform in the course of their duties may include these typical construction-related work activities. As a result, Part X (Machine Safety) and Part XVI (Entrances, Exits and Ladders) would apply to their work activities whether their employer was a school division, church, retail outlet or housing rental company.

It is important to note that anyone performing the types of specialized work activities noted above should be properly trained and deemed competent by a qualified person. If an employee does not have this specialized training then it is the employer's responsibility to ensure the employee is properly trained and deemed competent by a qualified person for these specialized work activities as well as all other work activities they are expected to perform.

I hope the above information is helpful. If you have any further questions please contact me anytime.

Sarah Maddia

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