A Solution for Alberta Manufacturers: MSO/MSA

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The expectations of workplace health and safety across the world are constantly evolving. With the increased requirement to participate in the global economy, companies are desperately seeking ways to compete while remaining profitable. The cost of having unsafe workplaces is no longer able to be considered a "cost of doing business," it has become "a reason you are not doing business."

The role of occupational health and safety in the manufacturing industry in Alberta is ever-changing, prompting a need for the standardization of processes, efficiencies and resources to successfully compete in local, national and global economies.

"Globally, it is recognized that there's a need to establish minimum education, experiential, and practical standards for those working in the OH&S field." *("Guide to OHS Certifications and Designations," Canadian Society of Safety Engineering, Third Edition, September 2018)*

The MHSA created the Manufacturing Safety Officer (MSO) and the Manufacturing Safety Administrator (MSA) programs in response to the growing needs for expertise in health and safety in the manufacturing sector in Alberta. The programs are designed to standardize health and

safety in manufacturing through elevating the role of the health and safety practitioner in the manufacturing sector. They develop the competencies needed to create and maintain a standardized healthy and safe workplace, while exploiting efficiencies through knowledge, experience and leveraging the resources provided by the MHSA.

The development of these programs represents a significant step in the evolution of the health and safety practices. The MSO/MSA programs serve as a foundation for developing standards of practice in the manufacturing industry in Alberta, including training and education programs. As the role of the health and safety continues to evolve, the MSO/MSA certifications, in particular, can be expected to play an integral role in the success of companies competing in the manufacturing sector in Alberta.

The purpose of the MSO/MSA certifications is to promote excellence and professionalism in health and safety in the manufacturing sector in Alberta. Employers that use the MSO/MSA certification processes to select, develop or promote employees, can rely on established standards for education, training and experience, as well as a demonstrated knowledge and skill through examination.

Organizations that commit to being an industry leader in Alberta manufacturing will have an MSO/MSA to spearhead their organization's path to excellence!

For more information:

https://www.mhsa.ab.ca/mso-area

Or, please reach out to your Regional MHSA office for any questions you may have.