



---

# Communique

**March 31, 2015**

## Frequently Asked Questions About the OSSA Basic Safety Orientation

### INTRODUCTION

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 the new Basic Safety Orientation (BSO) will replace the 1 hour OSSA Regional Orientation (ORO) and 6-8 hour Construction Safety Training System (CSTS) courses as a pre-site access requirement for all **new** contract workers at participating OSSA member work sites.

### FAQs:

#### **Q: Why is OSSA introducing this safety orientation course?**

A: Having a consistent approach to safety orientation training is part of OSSA's efforts to improve workplace safety, reduce duplicate training and increase seamless movement of workers between work sites in Alberta's oil sands industry.

The BSO represents a major improvement to the content and delivery of safety orientation training for OSSA and its member companies. The 4 hour interactive training session is designed to actively engage participants, with an emphasis on taking personal responsibility for workplace safety.

The BSO course has harmonized key safety standards and materials common between OSSA Members current site specific orientations, CSTS, as well as the inclusion of the new OSSA Regional Safety Rules and the 7 Life Saving Rules.

By implementing BSO we anticipate an additional reduction of duplicate site specific training anywhere from 1.5 - 3 hours, depending on the member site.

**Q: Why will CSTS no longer be a pre-site access requirement if I have the BSO?**

A: As OSSA worked with Keyano to develop the BSO course, one of the considerations was to reduce duplication of effort by combining and updating the material that had been covered by the ORO and CSTS courses. All necessary safety orientation information related to OSSA work sites is now covered off by BSO.

CSTS may still be required by employers, based upon their specific training needs. However, because of this consolidation of training materials in the BSO; CSTS will no longer be required as a pre-site access requirement on participating OSSA member sites.

**Q: What will be the site access requirement as of July 1, 2015?**

A: Workers arriving at participating OSSA member work sites as of July 1, 2015 must be able to produce and show either their BSO credential or a combination of their ORO and CSTS credentials.

**Q: Is there an expiry date for the OSSA BSO?**

A: There is no expiry on the BSO or for the current OSSA ORO.

**Q: How will the new BSO training be delivered?**

A: BSO will be offered in the Wood Buffalo region and key locations in Alberta and across Canada. All Accredited and Licensed Learning Providers will be posted on OSSA's website at [www.ossa-wb.ca](http://www.ossa-wb.ca) as they become available.

**Q: How soon will I be able to get BSO certification?**

A: Starting in early April 2015, the BSO course will be available through Learning Providers in a growing number of locations across Canada. (e.g. Fort McMurray, Edmonton, Calgary, Nova Scotia, Ontario, British Columbia, etc.) Learning Providers and training locations will be added depending on the need.



**Q: What happens between now and July 1? What orientation training will be required for new contract workers during the transition to BSO certification?**

A: New workers who need site access certification prior to July 1 will have the option of completing either:

- the new BSO when it becomes available, or
- the current ORO and CSTS courses through to June 30, 2015.

A list of ORO training providers as well as BSO providers will be available at [ossa-wb.ca](http://ossa-wb.ca)

**Q: What happens if I lose my OSSA ORO Credential?**

A: As of July 15, 2015, OSSA may be able to provide replacement credentials on a limited basis. Because OSSA’s training records have been compiled independently from multiple service providers over many years, their completeness cannot be guaranteed.

Workers requesting replacement credentials will be required to provide a government issued photo ID, answer identity verification questions and submit any required fees.

**NOTE:** If OSSA is unable to find the records, the worker will be required to take the new BSO course before gaining access to participating member sites.



**Q: What happens if I lose my BSO Credential?**

A: OSSA will have a tracking system in place for all completed BSO training. Replacement credentials will be able to be obtained from OSSA (as per fee guidelines). Workers will still be required to provide a government issued photo ID as well as answer identity verification questions.

**Q: Where can I get more information on BSO?**

A: Additional information is available on the OSSA website at [www.ossa-wb.ca](http://www.ossa-wb.ca), or by e-mail at [tammy.palmer@ossa-wb.ca](mailto:tammy.palmer@ossa-wb.ca).