



Occupational Health and Safety Training Initiative (OHSTI)

Questions and Answers

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1. What is the Occupational Health and Safety Training Initiative (OHSTI)?

To help Ontario's workers safely return to work, the Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development is providing access to free online occupational health and safety training. Through the Occupational Health and Safety Training Initiative (OHSTI), new and current clients of the Employment Ontario network will be able to select from up to 10 free web-based courses provided by four private training providers.

2. Why is the ministry providing access to free online training?

For many jobseekers, occupational health and safety training is often required by employers. By providing access to free online occupational health and safety training, the ministry is removing financial barriers to training, and enabling jobseekers to acquire the skills they need to find or return to work. The ministry is also supporting employers by ensuring new and returning employees are better prepared to start work.

3. Why is this initiative important to jobseekers?

To help people and businesses deal with economic impacts of COVID-19, the government supports effective employment and training solutions and continues its efforts to improve existing programs and services. As most non-essential businesses are closed and restrictions on in-person training are in place, OHSTI offers jobseekers the chance to take online training for free.

OHSTI training courses offer jobseekers the chance to improve their employability, have confidence to safely re-enter the workforce and support their potential switch in occupations by providing them with free training.

4. Why is the training provided under the OHSTI important?

Ontario's employment and training programs are more critical than ever in responding to the economic uncertainty and hardship that jobseekers are experiencing in the province. By providing online health and safety training through the Employment Ontario network, this initiative addresses the needs of the jobseekers, training providers, and employers.

Other benefits include:

- No cost for jobseekers who can take the training at their own pace and on their own schedule;
- Flexible training that is responsive to the needs of the labour market;
- Streamlined access for jobseekers, service providers, and training providers; and,
- Increasing jobseekers' employability while ensuring personal safety.

5. What courses are available?

The following ten (10) courses are currently available:

1. Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA)
2. Conducting Investigations
3. Health and Safety Representative
4. Infection Control
5. Ladder Safety
6. Manual Material Handling
7. Slips, Trips and Falls
8. Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
9. Workplace Inspections
10. Workplace Violence and Harassment

6. Who is eligible to access this training?

This initiative has been created to support new or current Employment Ontario clients. Current or new clients of the Employment Ontario network who meet eligibility requirements, as determined by service providers, are eligible to access this training. Current or new clients in Service System Manager prototype areas are also eligible to access this training.

7. Why should service providers refer clients to this training?

The ministry anticipates that, due to the pandemic, many jobseekers will want access to updated health and safety training. Without going into a physical Employment Ontario

office, service providers will be able to refer clients to the training online, making it safer and more convenient for both parties.

8. Who are the training providers offering the occupational health and safety courses?

The three private training providers are:

- Industrial Safety Trainers Inc.
- 4S Consulting Services Inc.
- Langlois Safety Training and Consulting

9. How were these training providers selected?

The training providers were selected based on their already-available online course offerings and their ability and capacity to immediately respond to a large volume training need.

10. For service providers with existing relationships with other training providers, are they required to only refer to these three training providers?

Service providers are encouraged to maintain and develop their existing relationships with health and safety training providers and to continue to refer clients as appropriate. This initiative should be viewed as an additional option to help serve Employment Ontario clients.

11. How can jobseekers access training?

Interested clients should contact an Employment Ontario service provider. After the local Employment Ontario service provider has confirmed that the client is eligible for this initiative, the client is given instructions and a unique registration code to access the courses.

Service providers can access the [Business Process Guide](#) on how to refer clients to the online health and safety courses.

Clients participating in project-based programs (e.g. Skills Catalyst Fund, RapidSkills, SkillsAdvance Ontario, etc.) will need to be referred to an Employment Ontario service provider for access to the online training.

Service providers in the System Service Manager prototype areas are also eligible to refer their clients to online health and safety courses.

Please note: To limit the instances of unauthorized use of the courses, it is recommended that service providers provide direction to clients not to share the provided code with others.

12. Can an employer train their employees using these free courses?

This initiative aims to support jobseekers and employers by ensuring new and returning employees are better prepared to start work. This initiative is not open to employers who are seeking to train their existing staff. This initiative has been created to support new or current Employment Ontario clients.

Employers needing support with training for their employees are encouraged to contact the Chief Prevention Officer-approved [training providers](#) that are offering the online training or their local training providers for more information. Employers can also contact their local Ministry of Labour, Training and Skills Development office to inquire about other programs that could support their training needs.

13. Where can service providers receive more information about the training and the specific courses?

More information about the training courses is available on the training providers' web pages.

- [Industrial Safety Trainers Inc.](#)
- [4S Consulting Services Inc.](#)
- [Langlois Safety Training and Consulting](#)

14. Whom should service providers contact if they or their clients have trouble accessing online courses?

Service providers should contact the training providers directly if their clients have any difficulties with accessing the courses.