

March 10 Presentation

Protecting All Workers

The health protection of workers is based on the use of TLVs. However, the TLVs do not, and were never intended to protect all workers under all conditions. The TLV Committee, and the Manitoba Workplace Regulation requires the TLVs to be adjusted to create an Occupational Exposure Limit that takes into account differences in the workforce and the workplace.

Failure to adjust for unusual conditions will result in overestimating a worker's ability to tolerate a "normal" exposure, or underestimate workplace exposure levels. Errors of over 70% can be made if the TLVs are not used properly. It should be noted that these errors are biases against the worker, not random error. Failure to consider the need to adjust TLVs can result in overexposure of workers and a violation of Manitoba's legislation.

To help workplaces to meet the requirements of both workers and legislation, the Manitoba Workers Compensation Board funded a guideline developed to assist safety and health professionals to protect all workers under all conditions.

To obtain a copy of the Guideline go to www.adjustingtlvs.com