What are the duties and functions of a JOHS committee?

A joint occupational health and safety committee, or JOHSC for short, is a group of employer and worker representatives who work together to improve workplace health and safety.

The legal duties and functions of the JOHSC are outlined in the Workers Compensation Act, the OHS Regulation, and Workers Compensation Board (WCB) policy. Your collective agreement may have additional JOHSC duties and functions.

The duties are clear. They are about taking action to make the workplace safer. For example:

- **Identify** unhealthy or unsafe situations and advise on ways to fix them
- **Address** complaints about health and safety promptly
- **Consult** with workers and the employer on OHS matters
- **Make recommendations** to improve workplace health and safety
- **Recommend** OHS education and training and monitor its effectiveness
- **Advise** the employer on programs and policies required under the regulation
- **Advise** the employer on workplace changes that affect health and safety
- **Ensure** inspections and investigations are done as required
- **Participate** in inspections, investigations, inquiries, risk assessments, the refusal of unsafe work process, and more
- **Consult** or participate in other duties as provided in the OHS regulation, WCB policy, and collective agreements



The bottom line

The duty of a JOHS committee is to take action to make the workplace safer.

JOHSC — More about JOHSCs

HEU Collective Agreements — Find HEU collective agreements

WORKSAFEBC — WorkSafeBC website

For questions, concerns, or support, contact your union at ohs@heu.org