

WCB Rates On-The-Rise in BC

In a recent trip to BC, HAC met with *Worksafe BC* representatives to discuss prospective changes to the rates in BC for next year, and the news was not good. A number of our BC members were invited to participate in the meeting and a few chose to attend.

The Board uses a modified collective liability system, where self-sufficient groups of employers are created on the basis of similar cost rates. These groups must be large enough to provide for an adequate spread of the risk and stability in the assessment rate. Employers are classified in to classification units (CUs), industry groups and rate groups. The costs incurred in relation to these groups determine the assessment rate paid by their members. Most operators in BC historically have fallen in to the “Non IFR Aviation Industry Group” which consists of the following Classification Units:

1. Aviation or Flying School
2. Helicopter VFR Operation
3. Helicopter Aerial Work

Also included in our CU are Fixed-Wing Aerial Work Operations, and Fixed-Wing VFR Operations, since they share a similarity of industrial undertaking and cost rates. Unfortunately, owing principally to a higher cost rate in our CU, and a declining number of businesses falling in to it, our industry has had to be reclassified in to a new Classification Unit which includes other industry groups including:

1. Marine Pleasure Craft Manufacture
2. Glass Shop (including window replacement)
3. Vinyl Window Manufacture
4. And others unrelated to aviation

The end result is that our VFR industry rates in BC will rise by 10% in 2011, and will likely continue to rise unless we can reduce our cost experience going forward. *Worksafe BC* did indicate that they were open to a discussion of safety trends in our industry with a view to adjusting rates going forward based on a prospective examination of our efforts to reduce our cost experience and improve safety, including our involvement in the IHST and the trend in our industry towards developing Best Practices. HAC has offered to

brief Worksafe BC on these evolving trends.