

Québec's Act respecting occupational health and safety: New provisions in force as of Oct. 1, 2025

September 23, 2025

On Sept. 30, 2021, the National Assembly of Québec passed Bill 59, <u>An Act to modernise the occupational health and safety system</u> (Bill 59), marking the first major reform in occupational health and safety in nearly 40 years. This major reform, which namely amends the <u>Act respecting occupational health and safety</u> (AOHS), provided for the gradual implementation of new obligations.

Four years later, this regulatory transformation reaches a final milestone: **on Oct. 1**, **2025**, **certain permanent provisions of Bill 59 will come into full force**, in accordance with the Order in council 1154-2025 (the Order). Despite the introduction of Bill 101 last Spring, which suggested a postponement until 2026, the government has confirmed that this initial key deadline of Oct. 1, 2025, remains.

The Order also provides for **the repeal**, on the same date, of the Regulation respecting safety representatives in establishments and the Regulation respecting health and safety committees. A **new regulation**, the Regulation respecting prevention and participation mechanisms in an establishment, will then come into force. This regulation includes the following chapters:

- Chapter II: Prevention Program and Action Plan
- Chapter III: Health and Safety Committee
- Chapter IV: Health and Safety Representative

In continuation of the <u>Insight we published on the subject in 2022</u>, the current Insight highlights **the main obligations that will come into force this fall**, in order to help you anticipate their impact on your workplace.

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