

OH&S Committees versus Site Safety Committees

OH&S Committees and Site Safety Committees are two different things, and the distinction comes down to the 'worksite'. It's important to know the difference between the two committees and to ensure that their respective minutes are used correctly. But first, let's define the 'worksite'.

A 'worksite' is defined by WorkplaceNL as:

“...a site where at least one person is engaged in work. This includes new construction or industrial projects that are intended to continue for 30 days or more”.

A Site Safety Committee is usually made up of employees of various companies who all work on one worksite. These committees, and their subsequent meetings, can be very beneficial in making certain that various safety information throughout the site is communicated effectively, ensuring that everybody understands the 'Big Picture'. Although we would not discourage companies from attending these meetings, according to Occupational Health and Safety Division, Service NL, minutes for these site committee meetings should not be submitted to WorkplaceNL as they **DO NOT** satisfy the legislative requirements for each company's OH&S committee(s).

Therefore, each company at a worksite that has ten or more workers employed at a particular site must have their own committee at that worksite. Any company at a worksite that has less than ten workers employed at a workplace must ensure that a worker not connected with the management of the workplace is designated as the worker health and safety representative.

Companies that have 'roaming' employees (such as service call engineers, utilities installation & repair technicians etc) would come under the company's main office location. If this then brings the location to having ten or more workers then the company would need to form an OH&S Committee.

OH&S Committees are a legislated requirement of the [Occupational Health and Safety Act](#) and [Regulations](#) and those OH&S Committee members are to be trained according to [legislative requirements](#).

For further information pertaining to “Site Committees” please contact the Occupational Health and Safety Division, Service NL or WorkplaceNL.