

**Interagency Agriculture Compliance Committee
Meeting Minutes – September 25, 2008**

Attendees:

Pat Cullinane, Chair, MLCS – ESB
Rod Bianchini, MLCS – ESB
Cst. Larry Ness, RCMP
Staff Sergeant Jim Simmill, RCMP
Greg Gilks, CVSE
Linda Mazzei, OSMV
Chris Hartmann, WorkSafeBC

1. Cross Ministry Integration: The work of the committee is an excellent example of the success of an integrated approach to compliance and could be used as a model elsewhere in government. The exchange of information and targeted education and enforcement has resulted in a significant impact on sector.
2. Update on Enforcement: Activities and statistics show a significant improvement in all areas of compliance. The failure rate of vehicles being inspected has been reduced to approximately 10%. The number of compliance orders issued by WorkSafeBC is down significantly in quarter three and continues a downward trend from rates in 2007. The compliance trend for Employment Standards issues is mirroring the increased rate of compliance. The random roadside inspections and site visits are continuing to have the desired impact. This model will continue for 2008/09.
3. Strategies Going Forward: This will include continued random inspections but may include expansion to new sites within the geographic area. The number of voluntary inspection opportunities will be reduced as employers should now be well aware of the requirements. The proposal is to also hold two education sessions with farm labour contractors in March of 2009. Members of each agency will attend to ensure issues are fully addressed and the sector is aware of requirements and any areas of concern. The enforcement sub-committee will continue to meet regularly to review activities and coordinate enforcement.
4. WorkSafeBC will provide a summary of the information they have to date with respect to the tragic accident involving the mushroom farm. It was indicated there will be increased inspections of these operations.
5. Next meeting: To be determined.