

6951 Westminster Highway, Richmond, BC  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 5350 Stn Terminal, Vancouver BC, V6B 5L5  
 Telephone 604 276-3100 Toll Free 1-888-621-7233 Fax 604 276-3247

The *Workers Compensation Act* requires that the employer must post a copy of this report in a conspicuous place at or near the workplace inspected for at least seven days, or until compliance has been achieved, whichever is the longer period. A copy of this report must also be given to the joint committee or worker health and safety representative, as applicable.

Inspection Report #202417748070A		
Employer Name	Jobsite Inspected	Scope of Inspection
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA	IN-VESSEL COMPOSTING FACILITY 6035 NURSERIES ROAD VANCOUVER BC V6T 1W5	Workplace Incident

Date of Initiating Inspection	Date of This Inspection	Delivery Date of This Report	Delivery Method
Jun 05, 2024	Jun 05, 2024	Jun 07, 2024	Email

**THERE IS ONE (1) ORDER OR OTHER ITEM OUTSTANDING**

**ACTION REQUIRED**

Summary of Orders or other Items		
See "Orders/Items – Full Details" section of this Inspection Report for orders/items cited		
Order/Item No.1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Status: <b>Outstanding</b>	Cited: <b>OHS5.2</b>

ORDER STATUS LEGEND	
Order Status	Description
Outstanding	Order Outstanding - Action Required to Achieve Compliance
Complied	Compliance Achieved - No Further Action Required
Closed	Order is Closed
Rescinded	Order has been cancelled - No Further Action Required

## INSPECTION NOTES

This inspection report documents the reporting to WorkSafeBC by the employer of a workplace incident that occurred at the In-Vessel Composting Facility at the UBC campus. The incident involved an exposure to workers to a hazardous substance.

### **A) INCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS**

#### Preliminary Investigation

As per section 71 of the *Workers Compensation Act* (the Act), the employer must immediately begin a preliminary investigation into this incident. The employer must ensure that a report of the preliminary investigation is prepared in accordance with WorkSafeBC Policy Item P2-71-1 RE: Preliminary Incident Investigation, Report and Follow-Up Action. The report must be completed within 48 hours of the occurrence of the incident.

#### Full Investigation

Immediately after completing the preliminary investigation, the employer must undertake a full investigation in accordance with section 72 of the Act and submit a copy of their report to WorkSafeBC within 30 days of the occurrence of the incident. The employer must ensure that a report of the full investigation is prepared in accordance with WorkSafeBC Policy Item P2-72-1 RE: Full Incident Investigation, Report and Follow-Up Action.

### **NEXT STEPS**

The employer has completed the preliminary investigation reports and copies have been provided to WorkSafeBC as requested.

Upon completion of the full investigation report(s) submit this report to WorkSafeBC within 30 days of the occurrence of the incident. The report(s) can be uploaded to the WorkSafeBC website here:

<https://www.worksafebc.com/en/health-safety/create-manage/incident-investigations/conducting-employer-investigation>

Compliance with the order in this report is due by **July 5, 2024**.

### **B) CONTACT**

If there are any questions regarding the items noted in this inspection report, please contact:

Jonathan Truefitt, B.Sc., CIH, ROH - Occupational Hygiene Officer - WorkSafeBC

E-mail: [jonathan.truefitt@worksafebc.com](mailto:jonathan.truefitt@worksafebc.com)

Mail: P.O. Box 5350 Stn. Terminal, Vancouver, B.C. V6B 5L5

Phone: 604-244-6486 || Fax: 604-232-1558

For more information on occupational health and safety, visit: [www.worksafebc.com](http://www.worksafebc.com)

**ORDERS/ITEMS**

**An employer who fails to comply with Occupational Health and Safety ("OHS") provisions of the *Workers Compensation Act*, the Occupational Health & Safety Regulation, or WorkSafeBC orders may be subject to monetary or other sanctions as prescribed by the *Workers Compensation Act*.**

**Orders/Items - Full Details**

Order/Item No.1 <input type="checkbox"/>	Status: <b>Outstanding</b>	Cited: <b>OHS5.2</b>
<p>Three workers were involved in an incident that resulted in an exposure to a chemical agent that is a hazardous substance (sodium hydroxide).</p> <p>The workers had collected bags of a material from an area of the campus for the purpose of disposal at the In-vessel composting facility. Information provided to the workers at the time of collection was that the bags contained sawdust. It was reported that the labeling on the bags was illegible at the time of collection.</p> <p>During the disposal process the workers were exposed to the contents of the bags, which was later determined to be a product containing sodium hydroxide.</p> <p>This is in contravention of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation Section 5.2.</p> <p>If a worker is or may be exposed to a chemical agent, or biological agent designated as a hazardous substance in section 5.1.1, which could cause an adverse health effect, the employer must ensure that (a) the identity of the chemical agent or biological agent, its possible effects on worker health and safety and any precautions required to protect the health and safety of the worker are clearly indicated by labels, SDSs, or other similar means, (b) the information required by paragraph (a) is clearly communicated to the worker, (c) written procedures are prepared and implemented to eliminate or minimize a risk of exposure to a chemical agent or biological agent by any route that could cause an adverse health effect, and to address emergency and cleanup procedures in the event of a spill or release of a chemical agent or biological agent, and (d) the supervisor and the worker are trained in and follow the measures required in this Part and Part 6 of this Regulation for the safe handling, use, storage and disposal of the chemical agent or biological agent, including emergency and spill cleanup procedures.</p> <p><u>Measures to Ensure Compliance:</u>                  Without undue delay, determine and implement a process to ensure that workers collecting waste material for disposal are provided with the information, training, and supervision to prevent exposure to a chemical agent that may be hazardous.</p> <p>Compliance with this order is due by July 5, 2024.</p>		

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Employer #	Mailing Address	Classification Unit #	Operating Location
11284	C/O WCB CLAIMS ADMINISTRATOR HUMAN RESOURCES 6TH FLOOR 6190 AGRONOMY RD VANCOUVER BC V6T 1Z3	765010	365

Lab Samples Taken	Direct Readings	Results Presented	Sampling Inspection(s)
N	N	N	

Workers onsite during Inspection	Notice of Project Number
10	

Inspection Report Delivered To	Employer Representative Present During Inspection	Worker Representative Present During Inspection	Labour Organization & Local
Paul Nakagawa	Paul Nakagawa	Georges Bisson	CUPE 116

WorkSafeBC Officer Conducting Inspection
Jonathan Truefitt

*Inspection Time	*Travel Time
5.00 hrs	1.00 hrs

\*The time recorded above reflects the inspection time and travel time associated with this inspection report and includes time spent on pre and post-inspection activities. Additional time may be added for subsequent activity.

### Request a Review

**Any employer, worker, owner, supplier, union, or a member of a deceased worker's family directly affected may, within 45 calendar days of the delivery date of this report, in writing, request the Review Division of WorkSafeBC to conduct a review of an order, or the non-issuance of an order, by contacting the Review Division. Employers requiring assistance may contact the Employers' Advisers Office at 1-800-925-2233.**

**To submit a request online, visit <https://www.worksafebc.com/en/review-appeal/submit-request>**

**WorkSafeBC values your feedback. To obtain that feedback, an external market research provider may be contacting you to complete a survey.**

WorkSafeBC's online services provide employers with tools to view information and to complete a variety of transactions with us in an easy, fast, and secure way. Through an online services account, you can view and download your inspection reports and compliance agreements, submit Employer Incident Investigation Reports, view your Health & Safety Planning Tool Kit, and more. Visit [worksafebc.com](https://www.worksafebc.com) to log in or create an account.