

## EMPLOYEE SAFETY REGULATIONS

The Canada Department of Labour is in process of issuing a full series of new accident-prevention regulations. In conjunction with these, the Accident Prevention and Compensation Branch has published a safety bulletin entitled *Canada Employment Safety and Health Regulations*, which provides a brief outline of the content of each set of regulations.

As stated by J.H. Currie, the Director of the Branch: "If your work, undertaking or business is within federal jurisdiction and is subject to Part IV of the Canada Labour Code (Safety of Employees), this pamphlet will be of direct interest to you - it concerns new federal employment safety regulations. Employers under federal jurisdiction as well as their employees are urged to study the regulations, not merely because they are legal requirements but more important because they can greatly assist in reducing the considerable number of accidents now occurring at work places. They will provide you with a sound basis for what you should be doing to achieve a satisfactory level of safety on the job."

These employment-safety and health regulations cover all aspects of employment safety and health, including machine guarding, accident investigation and reporting, dangerous substances, materials handling, sanitation, noise control, illumination, protective equipment, first aid, hand tools, building safety, temporary work structures, fire safety, elevating devices, electrical safety and boilers and pressure vessels. They are based on good industrial safety practice and were developed in co-operation with both labour and management. Various accident-prevention and other specialists were also consulted.

The series of general employment-safety and

health regulations referred to above are made pursuant to Part IV of the Canada Labour Code (Safety of Employees). They give practical effect to the principles of the legislation by setting an acceptable level of employment safety and health for work places subject to federal jurisdiction. Since these regulations are complementary to other Acts of Parliament, they do not apply to the safe operation of trains, planes and ships, which are subject to other federal legislation.

Broadly speaking, the activities that come within federal jurisdiction include:

Interprovincial and international

- railways
- highway transport
- telephone, telegraph and cable systems
- pipelines
- canals
- ferries, tunnels and bridges
- shipping and shipping services;

Radio and television broadcasting, including cablevision

Air transport, and airports

Banks

Grain-elevators

Flour and feed mills, feed warehouses and grain seed cleaning plants

Certain Crown corporations.

Although applicable within federal jurisdiction, the regulations will, of course, be of much interest to other authorities. This pamphlet contains a list of all the regulations concerned with brief remarks concerning each of them.

## FOOD DATE-MARKING IN SIGHT

Canadian grocers and manufacturers have been warned that compulsory, open date-marking of perishable foods on their shelves is on the way. Specific proposals to industry and consumer groups are in preparation by the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Department, a grocers' convention was told recently in Winnipeg.

No date for introduction has been set for what the Federal Government believes is a valuable advance in food-labelling. It may pose some problems for the food industry, but date-marking is in accordance with a stated purpose of the Department - to provide consumers with the information necessary to make an intelligent choice, so that they can make the best use of their food dollars.

And the retailer? He should benefit by being able to provide for easier rotation of his stock. The manufacturer? If the dates do the work expected of them, the manufacturer might expect his products to be sold in better condition, which should lead to an improve-

ment in his image in the eyes of the ultimate judge, the consumer.

The only real losers may turn out to be those few manufacturers who, because they use inferior raw materials or careless processing techniques, are unable to meet the standard of durability for their products.

Although the manufacturer often has no control over transportation or retail storage, the Government maintains that the point of fabrication is the place open date-marking should start.

How would it work? Perishable foods would have a date on the label telling the grocer and customer when that item should be taken off regular sale because of loss of quality, nutritive value or risk of spoilage. One could call this the "pull-date." Inherent in the "pull-date" idea is a period of expected storage time in the home. What the date would tell the retailer is not that the food was bad or in a dangerous condition or that it could not be sold, but that it should be sold by that date to ensure optimum freshness.