

Did you pay a surcharge this year?

How investing in safety can result in a refund.

Background

The Conditional Surcharge Refund Program was developed to assist Nova Scotia employers, like yourself, who find themselves in a surcharge position. The program encourages you to make investments in safety that will reduce workplace injuries and give you the opportunity to receive a full or partial refund of your surcharge.

How do I receive a refund?

In order to receive a refund, you must:

- Have no compensable fatal claims with a date of injury during the previous calendar year and up to the date the refund is issued
- Have your WCB account up to date
- Make **eligible** investment(s) in safety intended or expected to increase the level of safety at your workplace over time
- Be able to show proof of the investment(s) in safety, through either an invoice or proof of payment

Any investment(s) you wish to make must benefit workers who are working in Nova Scotia. If you have been surcharged, you will receive an application in February and will have until December 31 to apply for a refund.

So what should I invest in?

Eligible investments can include:

- **Safety Training:**
Could include training for First Aid, WHMIS or use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).
- **Becoming WCB Safety Certified:**
An accreditation issued to businesses that have passed an audit of their health and safety management system. The audits are conducted by audit providers approved by the WCB to conduct **WCB Safety Certified** audits.
- **Implementing Health and Safety Programming:**
Hiring or contracting for the development and delivery of health and safety programming, such as injury prevention and/or return-to-work programs.
- **New Equipment Purchase or Upgrades:** Purchase would need to provide a strong link between the equipment and the hazards present in the workplace (or the workplace's accident experience). For example, PPE purchases that support implementation of OH&S programs are generally considered to be an investment in safety.

Can I continue to apply for refunds each year I am in a surcharge position?

If you remain in a surcharge position three years after receiving an initial refund, you must demonstrate at least a 25 per cent improvement in your cost experience ratio before qualifying for future refunds.

Contact Information:

A more detailed list of Q&As can be found on our website: www.wcb.ns.ca/conditional_surcharge_refund

For more information, or if you wish to review your proposed investment in safety measures, you can contact Deirdre O'Reilly at 491.8445 or deirdre.oreilly@wcb.gov.ns.ca.