



BC SAFETY AUTHORITY ALTERNATIVE SAFETY APPROACHES (ASA) FEE CONSULTATION 2016

From June 15 to July 31, 2016, BC Safety Authority (BCSA) consulted extensively with industry and program clients and stakeholders on a proposed 1.8% increase to alternative safety approaches fees for 2017 and on the addition of optional services.

The consultation yielded responses from 16 individuals and organizations, with seven being written feedback, two from a teleconference open house, and seven from an in-person meeting. Respondents were asked to provide their feedback to the proposed fee changes and to suggest any changes that could potentially improve the fee structure.

BCSA would like to thank all those who submitted feedback via the online feedback form and who attended the internet and teleconference open houses. The insight, interest, and time of stakeholders was greatly appreciated.

Proposal

BCSA proposed a 1.8% fee increase on 2016 alternative safety approaches fees effective January 1, 2017 and the addition of optional services.

Decision

Following a consideration of the feedback received, BCSA has decided that it will proceed with the proposed 1.8% fee increase on 2016 fees for 2017 and offer the additional optional services.

Rationale

While BCSA understands that industry clients would generally prefer to not have a fee increase, consultation respondents also unanimously indicated that they generally understood BCSA's rationale for the proposal. In considering the feedback, BCSA acknowledges the economic pressures that clients face. BCSA also notes respondents' general support of the safety program and of the alternative safety approaches program.

BCSA is an independent, self-funded, not-for-profit organization. Under BCSA's Administrative Agreement with the Province of British Columbia, BCSA is required to have 'each industry sector cover its own direct program costs' and have 'indirect costs be allocated in an equitable manner.' BCSA's decision to proceed with the fee increase is made in order to meet these requirements, sustain and improve safety program oversight, and meet client service needs.

BCSA also notes that in feedback, some respondents also expressed a desire to see additional services offered, or changes to the fee structure to better meet their needs. BCSA will consider this feedback as part of continuous improvements to BCSA's programs and operations.