



## Health and Safety Amendments to Criminal Code Raises Accountability in Canadian Boardrooms and Workplaces

**March 31, 2004** - Bill C-45, an Act to Amend the Criminal Code (criminal liability of organizations) comes into force today. The CSSE - Canada's Safety, Health and Environmental Practitioners applauds changes to the Criminal Code of Canada that will:

- make it easier for the courts to convict organizations for wanton and reckless disregard of workplace safety;
- establish a legal duty for all persons directing work to take reasonable steps to ensure the safety of workers and the public;
- increase the financial and personal penalties to those convicted of criminal negligence; and
- provide new probationary options to be imposed on convicted organizations

The bar of accountability has been raised for organizations across Canada. We encourage Workplace Leaders to take steps to anticipate, identify, assess and control health and safety hazards and risks that cause untold human and organizational suffering and loss. The best way to manage liability is to proactively prevent injury, illness and loss from occurring in the first place.

The Canadian Society of Safety Engineering (CSSE) is the leading health, safety and environmental organization for practitioners in Canada. We work with industry, government agencies and other stakeholders in the safety community to promote a greater awareness of health, safety and environmental issues in workplaces and communities across the nation and around the world.

We are the Voice of Health and Safety in Canada. For further information visit us at [www.csse.org](http://www.csse.org)

CSSE is a proud sponsor of North American Occupational Safety and Health Week – May 2/8, 2004