CITY OF HAMILTON - CORPORATE SAFETY GUIDELINE

DEVELOPED BY: CORPORATE WORKPLACE SAFETY SECTION Guideline # COH-RQ-GD-014
DATE: June, 1990
APPROVED BY: Corporate Management Team

WEARING OF SHORTS

At the request of Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committees, the Corporate Workplace Safety Section has investigated possible safety factors associated with the wearing of shorts while at work. Some of the occupations reviewed include riding equipment operators, construction inspectors, laying sod and others.

The investigation usually includes:

1) A field visits to the work location for the purpose of inspecting various types of equipment and processes involved and a review of the potential hazards which exist.
2) A review of the input solicited from both worker and management health and safety representatives at the site.
3) A preparation of a written report including recommendations.

Some of the possible hazards to worker's legs, if allowed to wear "short pants" while working, have been identified as follows:

1) Physical Agents such as:
   Ultra violet rays from the sun and mosquito bites.
2) Objects being thrown up by the riding equipment's tires and/or attachments.
3) Handling or using controlled products such as fuels, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.
4) Working in close proximity to people using weed eaters and lawnmowers.
5) Riding near trees with low hanging branches.
6) Bruising and abrasions from hitting lower body against wheel, dash, and/or foot holds when entering or leaving the vehicle or performing minor adjustments on or around the vehicle.
Although the Workplace Safety Section does not openly encourage the wearing of shorts at work there is no existing policy or legislation which prohibits the wearing of shorts outright.

Based on the above findings, however, it is the opinion of the Corporate Workplace Safety Section that when the above noted hazards are present "LONG PANTS" are to be made a mandatory requirement.

Administrative (City or departmental dress code requirements) and collective bargaining (clothing issues) must also be considered and are generally outside the jurisdiction of the Workplace Safety Section.