

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)  
REGULATORY UPDATES**

**FINAL STATUTES, RULEMAKINGS, AND GUIDANCE**

Citations	Summary
<p>Federal Register May 24, 2010</p> <p>29 CFR Part 1910 Docket No. OSHA-2007-0072</p> <p>RIN: 1218-AB80</p> <p>Walking-Working Services and Personal Protective Equipment (Fall Protection Systems)</p>	<p>OSHA has proposed a revision of the current Walking-Working Surfaces standard to require employers to provide their workers with fall protection devices such as self-retracting lanyards and ladder safety and rope descent systems. Trips, slips and falls are a leading cause of workplace injuries and death and the revisions to this standard will help prevent an estimated annual 20 workplace fatalities and more than 3,500 injuries serious enough to cause people to miss work. Current Walking-Working Surfaces regulations allow employers to provide outdated and dangerous fall protection equipment such as lanyards and body belts that can result in workers suffering greater injury from falls. OSHA is seeking public comment on the new proposal. Additional information is available at:</p> <p><a href="http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-10418.htm">http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/2010-10418.htm</a></p> <p>Comments are due by August 23, 2010.</p>
<p>April 28, 2010 Memorandum for Regional OSHA Administrators</p> <p>OSHA Training Standards Policy Statement</p>	<p>OSHA issued an enforcement memorandum directed at protecting Latino and other non-English speaking workers from workplace hazards. It directs compliance officers to ensure they check and verify that workers are receiving OSHA required training in a language they understand.</p>

**Letters of Interpretation:**

OSHA issued the following letters of interpretation during the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2010. Links to the letters are provided below each reference.

- Multi-Employer obligations with respect to electrical cords. Standard No. 1903. Issued on May 20, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27431](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27431)

- Does a truck with a cab containing an integral falling object protective structure that was manufactured to meet the ISO 3449 standard conform to 29 CFR 1926.601(b)(6)? Standard Number: 1926.601; 1926.601(b)(6). Issued on April 30, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27440](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27440)
- Use of portable arc welding machines in inclement weather. Standard Number: 1926.351; 1926.351(a); 1926.351(b); 1926.351(c); 1926.351(d); 1926.354; 1926.406; 1926.406(c). Issued on April 30, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27437](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27437)
- Clarification on controlled access zones for leading edge work. Standard Number: 1926.501; 1926.501(b); 1926.501(b)(2)(i); 1926.502; 1926.502(g); 1926.502(k); 1926.502(k)(7). Issued on April 30, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27434](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27434)
- Interpretation of "unattended" in 29 CFR 1926.351(d)(l) with regard to electrode holders. Standard Number: 1926.351; 1926.351(d)(1). Issued on April 30, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27428](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27428)
- Whether an employer can repair an extension cord under 29 CFR 1926, Subpart K. Standard Number: 1926.405; 1926.405(g)(2)(iii); 1926.449. Issued on April 12, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27356](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27356)
- Minimum distance required between guardrails on an industrial truck work platform. Standard Number: 1926.451; 1926.451(g)(1)(vii); 1926.451(g)(4)(vi). Issued on April 12, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27365](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27365)
- Whether OSHA construction standards require a manhole cover to support at least twice a vehicle's applied axle load, regardless of the cover's size. Standard Number: 1926.502; 1926.502(i); 1926.502(i)(1); 1926.502(i)(2). Issued on April 6, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27359](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27359)
- Whether extension cords may be repaired and returned to use. Standard Number: 1926.403; 1926.403(a); 1926.404; 1926.404(b)(1)(iii)(C). Issued on April 4, 2010.
  - [http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p\\_id=27353](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=INTERPRETATIONS&p_id=27353)

**Other Recent Developments:**

**Hexavalent Chromium Rule Sets New Employer Requirements for Worker Protection**

OSHA's final rule requiring employers to notify their workers of all hexavalent chromium exposures went into effect June 15. The rule revises a provision in OSHA's Hexavalent Chromium standard that required workers be notified only when they experienced exposures exceeding established safe limits. Workers exposed to this toxic chemical are at greater risk for lung cancer and damage to the nose, throat, eyes, skin and respiratory tract. Occupational exposures to hexavalent chromium can occur among workers handling pigments, spray paints and coatings, and conducting welding.

**OSHA Makes Data on Toxic Chemical Exposure Available Online**

OSHA has released 15 years of data detailing workplace exposures to toxic chemicals. The data, available on OSHA's Web site, is comprised of measurements taken during the course of inspections, including exposure levels to the hazardous chemicals asbestos, benzene, beryllium, cadmium, lead, nickel, silica, and others. It can offer insights into the levels of toxic chemicals commonly found in workplaces, as well as how exposures to specific chemicals are distributed across industries, geographical areas and time. Additional information is available at:

<http://www.osha.gov/opengov/healthsamples.html>