

Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Regulatory Updates

FINAL STATUTES AND RULEMAKINGS

Citation

Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories (Non-Mandatory Appendix).

Technical Amendment to Appendix A to 1910.1450 – National Research Council Recommendations Concerning Chemical Hygiene in Laboratories.

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Summary

OSHA has updated the non-mandatory Appendix A in the Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories Standard, 29 CFR 1910.1450. The appendix has been updated to include the contents of the latest National Academy of Sciences publication entitled, "Prudent Practices in the Laboratory: Handling and Management of Chemical Hazards," 2011 edition.

This new revision addresses current laboratory practices, security, and emergency response, as well as promoting safe handling of highly toxic and explosive chemicals and their waste products.

A copy of the revised Appendix A is available at:

[For More Information Click Here](#)

Colden has been helping laboratories manage their health and safety programs for over 15 years. Our services include developing chemical hygiene plans, employee training, exposure assessments, ventilation testing, and decommissioning plans and specifications.

For additional information on how Colden can help, please visit our website at www.colden.com, or email us at colden@colden.com.

Important Reminder

As noted in our 1st Quarter 2012 Regulatory Updates, OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard is now aligned with the United Nations' Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals. The first deadline in the implementation phase of the revised standard is Dec. 1, 2013. By this date, employers must train workers on the new label elements and safety data sheet format (SDS). For additional information, refer to OSHA's February 2013 fact sheet available at:

[Click Here](#)

or email Colden Corporation at colden@colden.com for assistance in providing the new training. OSHA has issued the following letters of interpretation since our last regulatory summary update.

Letters of Interpretation

OSHA has issued the following letters of interpretation since our last regulatory summary update.

Guidance on handling cases developed pursuant to the Flame-Resistant Clothing (FRC) in Oil and Gas Drilling, Well Servicing, and Production-related Operations Enforcement Policy Memorandum. [1910.132;1910.132(a)]. Issued on December 18, 2012.

[Click Here](#)

Whether workers at a workplace without a collective bargaining agreement may authorize a person who is affiliated with a union or a community organization to act as their representative under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act). [1903.8;1903.11;1952.10;1903.20]. Issued on February 21, 2013.

[Click Here](#)

Clarification on whether the installation of a burial vault is a construction activity. [1926.1400]. Issued on February 26, 2013.

[Click Here](#)

Request for interpretation of OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard for Combustible Dust [1910.1200]. Issued on March 25, 2013.

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Other Recent Developments

Diesel Hazard Alert issued by OSHA and MSHA

OSHA and the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) are warning workers and their employers about hazardous exposure to diesel engine exhaust. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) recently classified diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic to humans, based on sufficient evidence that exposure is associated with an increased risk for lung cancer. Diesel engine exhaust, which contains a mixture of gases and small particles including diesel particulate matter, can create a health hazard when not properly controlled. The agencies have issued a hazard alert about workers' exposure to these materials. Diesel engines provide power to a variety of vehicles, heavy equipment and other machinery used in industries such as mining, transportation, construction, agriculture and maritime operations. The health effects of short-term exposure can be headache, dizziness, and irritation of the eye, nose and throat severe enough to distract or disable workers, while long-term exposure can increase the risk of cancer. The hazard alert offers information for employers and workers on engineering controls to mitigate exposure, as well as the OSHA and MSHA enforcement standards for a variety of industries. For more information, see the Hazard Alert at:

[Click Here](#)

For assistance in assessing potential employee exposures to diesel exhaust contact Paul Webb, CIH, CSP, MPH at webb@colden.com. Mr. Webb is presenting on the subject at the 2013 American Industrial Hygiene Conference and Exposition in Montreal.

Working Safely with Nanomaterials

In January, OSHA published a new fact sheet entitled Working Safely with Nanomaterials. The fact sheet provides basic information on the hazards of working with nano-scale materials that can be inhaled, ingested or absorbed through the skin. As nanotechnology applications move from research laboratories to industrial and commercial settings, workers and employers should be aware of potential hazards posed by nanomaterials in their workplaces and employers should take appropriate measures to control worker exposure. The new fact sheet reflects the current understanding of the health and safety issues relating to nanomaterials. The fact sheet is available at:

[Click Here](#)

For information on how Colden can help you assess and control nanomaterials in your facilities, please visit our website at: [Click Here](#)

New Landscaping Safety and Health Bulletin warns about Hazards of Operating Unguarded Stone Cutters and Splitters

OSHA's latest Safety and Health Information Bulletin (SHIB) warns landscaping employers and workers of the hazards involved in using stone-cutting machines and explains methods to eliminate or reduce the risk of injury when operating these types of machines. The SHIB is based on an investigation by OSHA's Englewood, CO., Area Office of a landscaping products company that found that many of the available stone cutters pose amputation hazards because these machines are not typically designed with adequate machine guarding to prevent the operator from reaching into the point of operation. OSHA worked with the stone splitter manufacturer and the landscaping company to retrofit the machine with two-handed controls, which prevents worker access to the point of operation. If the operator removes either hand from either of the controls, the blades will stop immediately. A copy of the SHIB is available at:

[Click Here](#)

New OSHA Webpage warns of Hydrogen Sulfide Exposure

OSHA's new hydrogen sulfide web page warns employers and workers of the dangerous health effects from breathing hydrogen sulfide (H₂S) and provides methods for controlling exposure to this toxic gas. H₂S is a colorless and highly flammable gas produced in industries such as mining, oil and gas refining, and paper and pulp processing. Bureau of Labor Statistics indicate H₂S caused 60 worker deaths between 2001 and 2010. The effects on workers' health depend on how much of the gas workers breathe but symptoms can range from headaches, nausea and fatigue to respiratory tract irritation, unconsciousness and death. The web page explains how training and the use of exhaust/ventilation systems and personal protective equipment can protect workers from harmful H₂S exposure. The new web page is available at:

[Click Here](#)

For assistance in assessing and controlling H₂S hazards, email us at colden@colden.com, or visit our website at:

[Click Here](#)

New Fact Sheets help Employers Minimize Exposure to Silica when using Construction Equipment

OSHA has published seven new educational resources to help employers control exposure to respirable crystalline silica at construction sites. The new fact sheets provide information for employers and for workers who operate handheld grinders, angle grinders, jackhammers, rotary hammers, stationary masonry saws, handheld masonry saws or vehicle-mounted drilling rigs. Respirable silica dust is a common hazard at many construction sites. Workers who breathe high concentrations of silica day after day are at risk of developing silicosis, a progressive and potentially disabling lung disease. Exposure to silica dust also can increase the risk of lung cancer and has been linked to other diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and kidney and autoimmune diseases. The new fact sheets are available at:

[Click Here](#)

For assistance on assessing and controlling silica hazards, email us at colden@colden.com, or visit our website at:

[Click Here](#)

Updated Resource Available on Machine Guarding for Abrasive Wheel Grinders

OSHA has updated its abrasive wheel grinder checklist to reflect revisions made to the general industry electrical installation standard in 2007. The checklist is a resource to help employers understand which standards apply to the use of abrasive wheel grinders and to ensure that all proper precautions, including safe electrical grounding techniques, have been taken before workers begin operating the equipment. Moving machine parts have the potential to cause severe workplace injuries, such as crushed fingers or hands, amputations, burns, or blindness. Safeguards are essential for protecting workers from these preventable injuries, and any machine part, function, or process that may cause injury must be safeguarded. The new checklist is available at:

[Click Here](#)

For assistance in machine guarding, contact Greg Richey, CIH, CSP, MS at richey@colden.com.

New Clinicians Webpage provides resource for Healthcare Professionals

OSHA has launched a new webpage directed specifically to clinicians. Physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, paramedics and other health care professionals often encounter work-related health and safety issues as they care for their patients. The Clinicians' webpage provides information, resources and links to help clinicians navigate OSHA's website and provide care for workers. Topics on the webpage include evaluating occupational exposures, OSHA requirements for recordkeeping and medical records, and setting up a safe outpatient office. The webpage is available at:

[Click Here](#)

For assistance in developing and implementing safety and health programs at your facilities contact Dr. Shannon Magari at magari@colden.com, or visit our website at:

[Click Here](#)