

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

FINAL STATUTES, RULEMAKINGS, AND GUIDANCE

Citations	Summary
<p>General Working Conditions in Shipyard Employment</p> <p>29 CFR Parts 1910 and 1915</p> <p>Docket No. OSHA-S049-2006-0675 RIN 1218-AB50</p>	<p>OSHA proposes to revise the standards on general working conditions in shipyard employment. The proposed revisions would update existing requirements to reflect advances in industry practices and technology. The proposal also would cross reference general industry standards either that are already applicable to shipyard employment or that OSHA intends to apply. Finally, OSHA proposes to add provisions that would provide protection from hazards not addressed by existing standards, including provisions on the control of hazardous energy (lockout/tag-out).</p>
<p>Abbreviated Bitrex[®] Qualitative Fit-Testing Protocol</p> <p>29 CFR Part 1910</p> <p>[Docket No. OSHA-2007-0006] RIN 1218-AC29</p>	<p>OSHA is proposing to include the protocol for the abbreviated Bitrex[®] qualitative fit test ("ABQLFT") in its Respiratory Protection Standard; the proposed protocol would apply to employers in general industry, shipyard employment, and the construction industry. The proposed ABQLFT protocol consists of seven exercises described in the existing Bitrex[®] qualitative fit-testing protocol specified in OSHA's Respiratory Protection Standard. However, each of the exercises in the proposed ABQLFT protocol lasts 15 seconds, compared to 60 seconds for exercises in the existing Bitrex[®] qualitative fit-testing protocol.</p>

Other Recent Developments:

Reminder: Posting Injury/Illness Summaries

Employers must post a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred last year. Employers are only required to post the Summary (OSHA Form 300A) -- not the OSHA 300 Log -- from February 1 to April 30, 2008. Copies of OSHA Forms 300, 300A and 301 are available on the OSHA website or at the following link: [OSHA Recordkeeping Web page](#).

Comment Period Extended for Look Back Review of Methylene Chloride Standard

OSHA extended the comment period for the Look Back Review of the Methylene Chloride Standard. The agency invited suggestions from the public on how the Standard's requirements can be modified to reduce the burden on employers while maintaining employee protection. Methylene chloride is used

in metal degreasing and aircraft paint removal, as well as in some plastics, adhesives, and inks. Comments were accepted until March 10, 2008.

New OSHA Publication Focusing on Security Personnel

Security personnel stand to benefit from a new publication by OSHA entitled *Preparing and Protecting Security Personnel in Emergencies*. This publication addresses emergencies involving hazardous substance releases and provides guidance for employers and their security personnel, who may be involved in the emergency response. Printed copies can be obtained by calling OSHA's publications office at 202-693-1888 or by clicking on the following link: [Preparing and Protecting Security Personnel in Emergencies](#).

OSHA Reminds Employers and Employees about the Safe Use of Quick Coupling Devices

OSHA's Chicago Region, the Chicago Land Construction Safety Council, and the Underground Contractors, have joined forces to remind employers and employees about the hazards of using quick coupling devices and possible solutions to avoiding those hazards.

Quick couplers allow operators of hydraulic excavators to change buckets or other attachments without leaving the excavator's cab. Unfortunately, the unexpected release of excavator buckets from quick coupling devices has resulted in injuries and deaths. OSHA's Safety and Health Information Bulletin that outlines specific methods for employers and employees to address the hazards and prevent further accidents can be found at the following link: [Hazards of Inadequately Securing Hydraulic Excavator Buckets When Using Quick Coupling Devices](#)

OSHA Extended the Comment Period on the Confined Spaces in Construction NPRM

The comment period on the Confined Spaces in Construction Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) was extended to Feb. 28, 2008. The proposed rule addresses topics specific to the construction industry. Using a systematic approach to confined space safety, the rule explains how to assess the hazards, classify the space, and implement effective procedures to protect employees. In addition, the rule requires controlling contractors (with overall authority of the site) to coordinate confined space operations among a site's multiple employers.

Hexavalent Chromium Standard Compliance Directive Issued

OSHA recently issued its compliance directive to enforce the hexavalent chromium standards that were effective May 30, 2006. This directive establishes uniform inspection and compliance procedures for compliance safety and health officers. The compliance directive can be found at the following link: [Compliance Directive](#)

New National Emphasis Program Launched on Crystalline Silica

OSHA recently published a new directive implementing a National Emphasis Program (NEP) to help reduce or eliminate workplace exposures to silica-related hazards. The NEP compliance directive

provides guidance to OSHA national, regional, and area offices and to those state programs which choose to implement a similar program. OSHA's [Safety and Health Topics Web page on crystalline silica](#) offers resources on identifying the health hazards associated with occupational exposure to crystalline silica and possible solutions for those hazards. The compliance directive can be found at the following link: [Silica Compliance Directive](#)

New Guidance Document on Portland Cement Issued

A new guidance document entitled "Preventing Skin Problems from Working with Portland Cement," was recently released to educate employers and employees about techniques to prevent skin-related injuries common in the cement industry. Portland cement, a generic term used to describe building materials with strong adhesive properties when mixed with water, is used in concrete, mortar, plaster, grout, stucco and terrazzo. The new guidance addresses ways to prevent or minimize skin problems through the use of various types of personal protective equipment. A copy of the guidance document can be found at the following link: [Preventing Skin Problems from Working with Portland Cement](#)

Reminder to Employers about Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program

OSHA is currently investigating a major accident involving combustible dust. The agency reminds all employers that combustible dust can present a dangerous workplace hazard, and encourages employers with such hazards to reference [OSHA's Safety and Health Information Bulletin](#) on this topic. In October 2007, OSHA launched its [National Emphasis Program on Combustible Dust](#) to ensure compliance with existing standards, educate the industry on the hazard and methods of abatement, and to collect data for analysis. For more information, visit OSHA's new [Combustible Dust Safety and Health Topics](#) page.