

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)
REGULATORY UPDATES****FINAL STATUTES, RULEMAKINGS, AND GUIDANCE**

Citations	Summary
OSHA Confirms Effective Date of Direct Final Rule on its Updated Standards 29 CFR Part 1910 (OSHA-2007-0040) RIN 1218-AC08	<p>The effective date of OSHA's direct final rule on updated standards based on National Consensus Standards has been confirmed. The direct final rule, published in the Dec. 14, 2007, Federal Register was effective March 13, 2008.</p> <p>The rule updates standards such as 29 CFR part 1910, subpart H, Hazardous Materials; 29 CFR part 1910, subpart Q, Welding, Cutting and Brazing"; and 29 CFR part 1910, subpart R, Special Industries. It also removes a reference to American Welding Society standard A3.0-1969, Terms and Definitions, and eliminates several references to consensus standards that duplicate or are comparable to other OSHA rules.</p>

Other Recent Developments:**Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program Reissued**

OSHA recently reissued its [Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program \(NEP\) Instruction](#) to increase enforcement activities and focus on specific industry groups that have experienced frequent or catastrophic combustible dust incidents. The purpose of this NEP is to inspect workplaces that create or handle combustible dusts, which can cause intense burning or other fire hazards when suspended in air, and possibly lead to explosions. Under this expanded NEP, each OSHA area office is expected to inspect at least four facilities each fiscal year.

New Safety and Health Information Bulletin Focuses on Oil and Gas Production Industry

OSHA published a new Safety and Health Information Bulletin to highlight specific workplace hazards. OSHA and the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board investigated a fatal incident involving the ignition of hydrocarbon vapor released during the off-loading of basic sediment and water from two vacuum trucks into an open area collection pit. The [Potential Flammability Hazard Associated with Bulk Transportation of Oilfield Exploration and Production Waste Liquids](#) outlines specific methods for employers and employees to address the hazards and prevent future incidents.

OSHA Hosts Informal Hearing on Proposed Rule on Confined Spaces in Construction

OSHA is inviting the public to participate in an informal public hearing on the proposed rule for Confined Spaces in Construction. The hearing is scheduled for 10 a.m. on July 22, 2008, at the U.S. Department of Labor's Frances Perkins Building in Washington. On Nov. 28, 2007, OSHA published

the proposed Confined Spaces in Construction Standard to address construction-specific issues as they relate to confined spaces and to establish comprehensive procedures to protect employees. More details on the hearing are available in the April 21 [Federal Register](#).

Latest Safety and Health Information Bulletins Focus on Auger Drilling and Wood Chippers

OSHA published two new Safety and Health Information Bulletins to highlight specific workplace hazards. [Hazards of Auger Drilling](#) raises awareness about the serious hazards associated with operating powered augers and highlights safe workplace practices designed to protect employees from those hazards. The risk of injury or death from the improper operation of wood chippers is the reason behind the bulletin [Hazards of Wood Chippers](#). This bulletin identifies specific work practices for employers and employees to address caught-in and struck-by hazards and prevent accidents.

New Fact Sheet Available on Safety and Health Management Systems

[Effective Workplace Safety and Health Management Systems](#) is the latest in a series of [fact sheets](#) on various topics that OSHA produces for employers and employees. This new fact sheet pinpoints OSHA's resources for helping employers design a safety and health management system (SHMS). It also provides a checklist of action items for each SHMS element.

OSHA Requests Comments on Proposed Guidance Related to Pandemic Influenza

Interested persons wishing to comment on OSHA's [Proposed Guidance on Workplace Stockpiling of Respirators and Facemasks for Pandemic Influenza](#) have until July 8, 2008, to do so. The proposed guidance offers private sector and government employers recommendations and a method for calculating workplace stockpiling needs for respirators and facemasks. This allows employers to better protect their employees and reduce the impact of a pandemic. The document supplements the existing [Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic](#) released last year. Details on how to submit comments appear in the May 9 [Federal Register](#).

OSHA Offers Advice on Working in Summer Heat

Summer officially begins on June 20, but hot weather is already upon us in many areas of the country. During this time of year, it is especially important to pay attention to heat stress and other dangers posed by the summer sun. OSHA reminds readers of its free downloadable resources, such as the *Heat Stress QuickCard*® ([English/Spanish](#)) that employees can use to reduce the risk of health ailments from working in hot temperatures. Also, OSHA's [Working Outdoors in Warm Climates](#) fact sheet features more information on heat stress and other summer-weather hazards.

Fireworks Safety Video Now Available

OSHA released a new video entitled [Fireworks Safety in Manufacturing and Retail Sales](#) focusing on educating OSHA compliance personnel about safety standards and best practices for the pyrotechnics industry. Developed under a contract with the American Pyrotechnics Association, the video is also designed to help employers and employees identify and reduce pyrotechnics hazards.