

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

**FINAL STATUTES, RULEMAKINGS, AND GUIDANCE**

Citations	Summary
<p><b>OSHA announces rulemaking on combustible dust hazards</b></p> <p>May 2009</p>	<p>OSHA will issue an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on combustible dust hazards and convene related stakeholder meetings. The purpose is to evaluate possible regulatory methods and request data and comments on issues related to combustible dust such as hazard recognition, assessment, communication, defining combustible dust and other concerns.</p> <p>Materials that may form combustible dust include metals, wood, coal, plastics, biosolids, sugar, paper, soap, dried blood, and certain textiles. A combustible dust explosion hazard may exist in a variety of industries, including: food, grain, tobacco, plastics, wood, paper, pulp, rubber, furniture, textiles, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, dyes, coal, metals, and fossil fuel power generation.</p>

**Note:** There were no regulatory letters of interpretation issued by OSHA during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter

**Other Recent Developments:**

**OSHA Revises Field Operations Manual to Enhance Enforcement and Compliance Assistance**

OSHA has revised its Field Operations Manual to provide OSHA compliance officers with a single comprehensive resource of updated guidance in implementing the agency's mission to more effectively protect employees from occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities. "The manual will be a resource for workers and employers, giving them a consolidated reference on how OSHA expects workplaces to be safe and healthful," said OSHA Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor Donald G. Shalhoub. "This document is part of OSHA's continuing commitment to make its standards and enforcement activities transparent and understandable to all parties."

The Field Operations Manual, formerly called the Field Inspection Reference Manual, constitutes OSHA's general enforcement policy and procedures for use by the agency's field offices in conducting inspections, issuing citations and proposing penalties. The manual assists compliance officers in scheduling and conducting inspections, enforcing regulations, and encouraging continual improvement in workplace safety and health.

The manual is available online at: [http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive\\_pdf/CPL\\_02-00-148.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02-00-148.pdf)

**OSHA Responds to Threat of H1N1 (Swine Flu) Virus**

To help businesses and workers effectively respond to the H1N1 (swine) virus threat, OSHA has a Web page to answer questions pertaining to workplace health and safety. Additionally, OSHA has

published new QuickCards and fact sheets, and provided these topical at-a-glance publications to the U.S. workforce. For H1N1 information, visit OSHA's Safety and Health Topics page at <http://www.osha.gov/dsg/topics/pandemicflu/index.html>.

Information published to date by OSHA can be found at the following links:

- <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/employers-protect-workers-flu-factsheet.pdf>
- <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/respirators-vs-surgicalmasks-factsheet.pdf>
- <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/exposure-risk-classification-factsheet.pdf>
- <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/protect-yourself-pandemic-respiratory.pdf>
- <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/protect-yourself-pandemic.pdf>

### **OSHA Issues New Publications on Silica, Ethylene Oxide and Nail Guns**

OSHA has issued new QuickCards™ on: 1) Controlling Silica Exposures in Construction, which is available at <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3362silica-exposures.pdf>, 2) OSHA's Small Business Guide for Ethylene Oxide, which is available at <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/ethylene-oxide.pdf>, and 3) Pneumatic Nail Gun Safety Tips, which is available at <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/nail-gun.pdf>