



Industrial Health & Safety's May Spotlight on Safety has been released . The purpose of this newsletter is to provide friends and clients a greater understanding of the dynamic world of occupational safety and health, and to keep them acquainted with the various changes in policies and laws that will affect their facilities.

Topics In this Issue

[This Week is North American Occupational Safety & Health Week](#)

[Latest OSHA Handbooks](#)

[EPA and Mold Prevention](#)

[Changes to Safety and Health Topics](#)

[DOT - Proposed Changes to Use of International Transport Standards](#)

[Tax Exemptions attempt to Encourage Use of Safety Apparel](#)

[OSHA and Hexavalent Chromium](#)

[EU Restricts Toluene](#)

[Spring Check-Up for your Asbestos Management Program](#)

General Interest

This Week is North American Occupational Safety & Health Week

OSHA and the American Society of Safety Engineers (ASSE) have co-sponsored a week dedicated to education about worker safety and health in Washington, DC. Beginning May 1, North American Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week is a multi-national program that joins employers, employees and the public in education about environmental health and safety issues faced throughout Canada, the United States, and Mexico. There will be programs all week available nation wide, so check the OSHA website for more information.

Latest OSHA Handbooks

Recently, the OSHA website has published two new handbooks. The first, [Best Practices for the Safe Use of Glutaraldehyde in Health Care](#) was created to assist employers and employees when handling glutaraldehyde, which is commonly used as a disinfectant for cleaning medical, dental, and surgical equipment. The second guide, entitled [Preventing Mold-Related Problems in the Indoor Workplace](#), contains information to assist in fixing mold-related problems in buildings. These handbooks join [Electrical Safety Hazards of Overloading Cable](#)

Trays published earlier this year in the ever-expanding OSHA library.

EPA and Mold Prevention

The EPA is currently offering a Web course containing information on mold prevention and remediation. It is designed primarily for environmental and public health professionals.

For more information, go to <http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldcourse>

Changes to Safety and Health Topics

The OSHA web page, [Safety and Health Topics](#), has recently announced some changes to their website. These changes have been made in order to increase the effectiveness and timeliness of the information available at the website. Included in the changes are increasing the detail in the "What's New" section, and adding drop-down boxes to more easily access information about specific industries or hazards.

DOT - Proposed Changes to Use of International Standards

At the end of January, the DOT has officially released proposed rulemaking. PHMSA-2005-23141 (HM-215F), Hazardous Materials Revision and Reformatting of Requirements for the Authorization to use International transport Standards and Regulations. There are many different changes that will affect the how companies can use international standards when preparing hazardous materials for shipment. There a two main changes, first that companies will now be required to include a transportation standard on the shipping papers included with a shipment of chemicals, second that combustible placards will now be allowed to be removed from packaging before the chemicals are loaded onto a ship.

The first major change is done in an attempt to improve the documentation of transportation hazards. The inclusion of international transportation regulations (ICAO, IMDG, TDG or IAEA) that will cover the transportation of the product will also improve the speed of shipping by allowing those involved in the shipping to have easier access to the necessary information. Those aided will include inspectors, freight forwarders, and carrier personnel. There will also be a new requirement for a "shipper's certification" for all shipments within the US, as described in Sec. 172.204 of the HMR.

The second main change relates to combustible materials. These materials are those with a flash point that is between 60.5° C (141° F) and 93° C (200° F). Those materials with a flashpoint above 93° C (200° F) are not regulated as combustible materials. When those chemicals regulated as combustible are shipped, they are required to be labeled with a COMBUSTIBLE placard. Since this placard is not recognized overseas, the latest regulations now allow shippers and carriers to remove the placard before placing the materials onboard a ship destined for shipment overseas. Despite this change, chemicals must still be labeled with a placard while still within the United States. When a combustible material arrives in the US from overseas, it must be labeled with the appropriate placard before it can be shipped elsewhere in the US.

For more information about the latest changes to the regulations, please see <http://hazmat.dot.gov/regs/notices/rulemake.htm#nprm>.

Tax Exemptions attempt to Encourage Use of Safety Apparel

A new Connecticut law is offering companies tax exemptions for purchasing safety clothing and equipment for their employees. According to the Department of Revenue, the safety apparel must be worn and must physically protect the employee (not just protect their street-clothing from dirt or acting as a uniform) in order to qualify for the exemption. This exemption will qualify for clothing both purchased and rented or leased.

Most clothing will be automatically recognized as exempt by the retailer and the employer since it is unusual and not used by the general public, or when the purchasing department of the employer is making the purchase. If the purchase is being made by an individual employee and is something that is readily used by the general public, the employer can provide a statement on company letterhead authorizing the purchase and identifies the employee and signed by the employer will fulfill the requirements of the state. For more information, please visit the DRS website for a [list of qualifying apparel](#).

OSHA and Hexavalent Chromium

Hexavalent Chromium now has a final standard covering occupational exposure in industry, construction, and shipyards. The standard has been published in the [Federal Register](#) and is available online. The standard now states that the PEL (permissible exposure limit) for Hexavalent Chromium is 5 ug/m³ as an 8-hour time weighted average. There is more information available at the website detailing recommended respiratory protection, record keeping, PPE (personal protective equipment), and methods for controlling exposure. Hexavalent Chromium has been linked to skin disorders and lung cancer, and is commonly used in stainless steel, iron, and steel production, as well as painting and welding.

EU Restricts Toluene

The EU has recently announced that it is restricting the sale of products containing toluene sold to the public. The EU is also restricting the sale of trichlorobenzene for all purposes. If you would like more information about these changes, please contact [Denese Deeds](#).

School Specific Issues

Spring Check-Up for your Asbestos Management Program

By William Rath (Reprinted from Spotlight May, 2004)

Here's a handy list you can use to give your asbestos-in-schools program a quick check-up. This check-up may be just the ticket if you've been losing sleep wondering what your program might be missing!

Asbestos Management Plan (AMP)

- Is a complete copy of the AMP available in the Administrative Office of each school?
- Are complete copies of the AMP's for each school available at the Superintendent's Office?
- Is the name and telephone number of the designated person correct?

Notifications and Training

- Have parents, teachers, and employee organizations been notified of the AMP availability at least once each school year in the manner prescribed in the AMP?
- Are short-term workers (plumbers, utility workers, contractors, etc.) provided with information on the location of Asbestos-Containing Building Material (ACBM)?
- Have all custodial and maintenance workers received a 2-hour asbestos awareness training?
- Have custodial and maintenance workers with jobs that are likely to disturb ACBM received an additional 14-hours of training?
- Has the "Designated Person" been properly trained?
- Are records of all required training and notifications maintained in each copy of the AMP? (See "Form 2" for training record requirements.)

Response Actions

- Have all preventative measures and response actions identified in the AMP been implemented on schedule, including:
 - O&M program?
 - removal?
 - encapsulation?
 - enclosure?
 - repair?
- Have the initial and periodic cleanings specified in the AMP been performed? (Note: Periodic cleanings are not required by all AMP's.
- Are records of response actions, preventative measures, O&M activities, initial and periodic cleanings, and fiber release episodes maintained in each copy of the AMP?

Periodic Surveillance

- Has all ACBM identified in the AMP been visually inspected every six months since the plan has been in place?
- Are the records of each surveillance maintained in each copy of the AMP? (See "Form 3" for surveillance record requirements.)

Warning Labels

- Are warning labels posted adjacent to all ACBM in all "routine maintenance areas"?

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