Standards and Guidance Update

William Perry, CIH
Director, Standards and Guidance
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

ASSE/AIHA Joint Meeting
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Protecting Workers from Chemical Hazards

- Each year in the U.S., many thousands of workers are made sick or die from occupational exposures to hazardous chemicals
- The number of chemicals found in workplaces today far exceeds the number regulated by OSHA
- The vast majority of existing permissible exposure limits (PELs) have not been updated since 1971
- Current scientific data suggests that the outdated PELs are not sufficiently protective

We Can Help
www.osha.gov
Recent OSHA Efforts to Improve Protection of Workers from Chemical Hazards

- Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers
Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers

Welcome.

American workers use tens of thousands of chemicals every day. While many of these chemicals are suspected of being harmful, only a small number are regulated in the workplace.

As a result, workers suffer more than 200,000 injuries and 5,000 deaths annually related to chemical exposures. Workplace chemical exposures have been linked to cancer, and other lung, kidney, skin, heart, stomach, brain, nerve, and reproductive diseases.

Establishing a chemical management system that goes beyond regulatory compliance and strives to reduce or eliminate chemical hazards at the source through informed substitution best protects workers. Transitioning to safer alternatives can be a complex undertaking, but a variety of existing resources make it easier. OSHA has developed this step-by-step toolkit to provide employers and workers with information, methods, tools, and guidance on using informed substitution in the workplace.

By using this toolkit, businesses can improve worker well-being through eliminating or reducing hazardous chemicals, while creating other benefits, including:

- Cost Savings — Reduce expenses and future risks.
- Efficiency — Improve performance.
- Industry Leadership — Invest in innovation to stay competitive.
- Corporate Stewardship — Advance socially responsible practices.

This toolkit can be used by all types of businesses — from manufacturers using chemicals in their production processes as well as for businesses that use products containing chemicals in their everyday operations. For example, service-oriented workplaces (janitorial companies, auto body repair shops, and pathology labs) and construction work also often use products containing chemicals that could present hazards to workers.

Workers can use the toolkit to better understand chemical use in their workplace, find opportunities for using safer chemicals, and engage with their employers throughout the process of identifying, evaluating, and transitioning to safer alternatives.

OSHA wants to help businesses thrive safely by asking them to look at their chemical use and adopt ways to reduce the use of hazardous chemicals. Together, OSHA, employers, and workers can protect America’s workforce and strengthen America’s businesses.

www.osha.gov/dsg/safer_chemicals
Recent OSHA Efforts to Improve Protection of Workers from Chemical Hazards

- Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers
- Annotated PELs Tables
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CAS No.</th>
<th>OSHA PEL(a)</th>
<th>CalOSHA PEL(b)</th>
<th>NIOSH REL(c)</th>
<th>ACGIH TLV(d)</th>
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<td>ppm(a2)</td>
<td>mg/m³(a3)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5 mg/m³</td>
</tr>
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http://www.osha.gov/dsg/annotated-pels
Recent OSHA Efforts to Improve Protection of Workers from Chemical Hazards

- Transitioning to Safer Chemicals: A Toolkit for Employers and Workers
- Annotated PELs Tables
- Publication of Request for Information on Chemical Management and Permissible Exposure Limits
What Information is OSHA Requesting Through the RFI?

- Ways to streamline PEL-setting process (risk assessment and feasibility analysis)
- Thinking outside the box – New approaches for managing chemical hazards
Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security: A Shared Commitment

Status Report
As Tri-Chairs of the Chemical Facility Safety and Security Working Group established by Executive Order 13650, we are pleased to release the status report on behalf of all the departments and agencies involved in this effort. The report, published May 2014, summarizes the Working Group's progress, focusing on actions to date, findings and lessons learned, challenges, and next and long-term priority actions. The report, entitled Actions to Improve Chemical Facility Safety and Security: A Shared Commitment, includes an aggressive Action Plan focused on changing the national landscape of chemical facility safety and security. This report is a milestone in the shared commitment to improving chemical facility safety and security and we ask for continued engagement and active participation by all with a stake in chemical facility safety and security—communities, first responders, workers and industry; local, tribal, State, and Federal Government.

If you have any questions or comments regarding Executive Order 13650 or this report, please email FO.chemical@hq.dhs.gov.

Status Report Fact Sheet
Executive Order Progress Updates: February 2014
Executive Order Progress Updates: December 2013

Background
On August 1, 2013, President Obama signed Executive Order 13650, entitled Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security. The Executive Order directs the Federal Government to improve operational coordination with state and local partners; improve Federal agency coordination and information sharing; modernize policies, regulations, and standards; and work with stakeholders to identify best practices.

The Executive Order working group includes representatives from:
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Department of Labor (DOL)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

http://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/index.html
Other Major Initiatives

- Crystalline Silica
- Beryllium
- Infectious Diseases
- Fall Protection (Walking/Working Surfaces)
- Emergency Response and Preparedness
Agriculture in OSHA
What is Agriculture?

Regulated under 29 CFR Part 1928. Generally, any agricultural operations or activities involved in the following:

• Growing & Harvesting crops, nuts, trees, vines
• Livestock grain and feed lot operations
• Egg, Poultry, Dairy farms
• Horse, Hog farms
• Fish farms
• Fur bearing farms
Injuries and Illnesses

• Agriculture ranks among the most dangerous industries.
• Between 2003 and 2011, 5,816 workers died.
• Agricultural workers had a fatality rate of 24.9 deaths per 100,000, while the fatality rate for all workers was 3.5.
• Every day, about 243 agricultural workers suffer a serious lost-work-time injury. Five percent of these injuries result in permanent impairment.
OSHA Agriculture Taskforce

• Initiated in 2011 as small workgroup to enhance and integrate agriculture issues more fully in OSHA.

• Mission was to recommend how OSHA can incorporate agriculture into it’s mission and organizational structure.

• Developed 7 recommendations for Office of Assistant Secretary - 4 of which completed.
## Ag Initiatives

### DOL Ag Taskforce
- Includes OSHA, WHD, ETA
- Regional Coordinators for each Agency
- Monthly calls
- Discuss DOL ag initiatives, products
- Guest speakers – alliances, industry specific topics

### Cross-Agency Ag
- Includes all from DOL taskforce as well as USDA, EPA, NIOSH
- 5 areas across US
- Quarterly calls
- Discuss region specific S&H issues in ag workplaces
- Coordination of programs and tools for all agencies involved
Addressing Safety and Health Issues

• Guidance Documents Publishing Soon:
  – Backovers in Agriculture (FS)
  – Tractor and Vehicle Safety (FS)
  – ATV Safety (QC, FS)
  – Workers’ Rights Website

• Published Guidance Documents
  – Tractor/Harvester Hazards (QC)
  – Orchard Ladder Safety (QC, FS)
  – Backing up Vehicles and Equipment (QC)
  – Green Tobacco Sickness

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www.osha.gov
Working Together, We Can Help

www.osha.gov
800-321-OSHA (6742)