Emerging Occupational Injury and Illness Issues in the Southeast Region

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Severe Injury and Illness Reporting

Interim Enforcement Procedures for Reporting Requirements under 29 CFR 1904.39

Key Points:

- SIR Intake and triage procedures
- Rapid Response Investigation (RRI) procedures for area offices
- SIR flowcharts to guide decision making
- Abatement of underlying hazards is the focus
Severe Injury Reports

Nation - CY 2017 - 12,366 SIR Reports

- 30% (3657) - Inspections
- 63% (7819) - RRI
- 7% (890) - Not Valid or not action taken
Severe Injury Reports

Nation - CY 2017 - 12,366 SIR Reports

- 7819, 63%
- 3657, 30%
- 881, 7%
- 9, 0%

VALID BLANK  VALID NO  RII  INSPECTION
Severe Injury Reports

Region 4 - CY 2017 - 2,626 SIR Reports

- 28% (736) Inspections
- 62% (1629) RRI
- 10% (261) Not Valid
Severe Injury Reports

Region 4 - CY 2017 - 2,626 SIR Reports

- 1629, 62%: VALID BLANK
- 736, 28%: VALID NO
- 261, 10%: RRI
- 0, 0%: INSPECTION
New Silica Standard

Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard for construction, began enforcement on September 23, 2017

- Comprehensive Standard establishes 8-hour time-weighted average, permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) of 50 µg/m³, and an action level of 25 µg/m³
- Developed interim enforcement guidance
- Drafting Compliance Directive, numerous FAQ and letters of interpretation
- Three judge panel rejected all of industries’ challenges and said OSHA had met legal requirements for determining what standards are feasible, economically and technically
New Beryllium Standards

- January 9, 2017 - Final rule - Beryllium (new expanded standards)
  - Gen. Ind. (1910.1024); Constr. (1926.1124); Maritime (1915.1024)
  - PEL 0.2 µg/m³ (8-hr TWA)  [reduced 10x from PEL in 1910.1000]
  - STEL 2.0 µg/m³ (for 15 minutes)
- Dates
  - May 20, 2017 - Effective date
  - March 12, 2018 - Comply with most requirements
  - March 11, 2019 - Change rooms/Shower (GI only)
  - May 20, 2020 - Engineering controls
- June 27, 2017 - Proposed change for construction and maritime
  - Revoke all requirements except the PELs
  - Still reviewing public comments
- March 2, 2018 - Memo delays enforcement 60 days to May 11
- Litigation settlements ongoing
Walking Working Surfaces Standard

- Published November 18, 2016

- Effective January 17, 2017
  - Exceptions: training, rope descent anchorage inspection requirements, and some ladder requirements
  - Some requirements are grandfathered for existing installations (i.e. height of stair rails)

- Training requirements became effective May 17, 2017

- Provides greater flexibility in choosing a fall protection system.

- OSHA developing numerous FAQ to support compliance
Heat-Related Exposures

- Every year, dozens of workers die and thousands more become ill while working in extreme heat or humid conditions.
- More than 40 percent of heat-related worker deaths occur in the construction industry, but workers in every field are susceptible.
- Calendar Year 2017 - 4 Heat-Related Fatalities Inspected (Agriculture, General Industry and Construction)
- Calendar Year 2017 - 19 Heat-Related Hospitalizations Inspected
- The Heat Safety Tool - The App allows workers and supervisors to calculate the heat index for their worksite, and, based on the heat index, displays a risk level to outdoor workers.
Heat-Related Exposures

OSHA announces Safety Stand-Down at worksites throughout Southeast to emphasize response to, prevention of heat-related illnesses, injuries

Thousands of workers overcome by heat illness annually, OSHA reports

ATLANTA - In 2014, 2,630 workers suffered from heat illness while 18 died from heat stroke and related causes on the job - all of which was preventable.

To raise awareness about these dangers, the U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration, employers and trade associations will conduct a one-hour Safety Stand-Down at construction sites and workplaces in eight Southern states from June 27 to July 1, 2016.

Workers in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee will stop work voluntarily for one hour at 7 a.m. EDT to conduct safety training focused on how to recognize the symptoms of heat-related illnesses and prevent these illnesses when working in hot weather.

Every year, thousands of workers nationwide suffer from serious heat-related illnesses. OSHA investigations of recent heat-related deaths found a majority involved workers on the job for three or less days - highlighting the need for employers to ensure that new workers become acclimated to the heat when starting or returning to work. Labor-intensive activities in hot weather can increase body temperatures beyond a level that sweating cannot cool normally. Heat illness may manifest initially as heat rash or heat cramps. The illness can quickly elevate to heat exhaustion and
OSHA has received and investigated many reports of temporary workers suffering serious or fatal injuries, some in their first days on the job. Numerous studies have shown that new workers are at increased risk for work-related injury, and most temporary workers will be "new" workers multiple times a year.

Both host employers and staffing agencies have roles in complying with workplace health and safety requirements and they share responsibility for ensuring worker safety and health.

A key concept is that each employer should consider the hazards it is in a position to prevent and correct, and in a position to comply with OSHA standards.

- Staffing agencies might provide general safety and health training.
- Host employers provide specific training tailored to the particular workplace equipment/hazards.

Host employers must treat temporary workers like any other workers in terms of training and safety and health protections.
Temporary Worker Initiative

Highlights

- Recommended Practices: Protecting Temporary Worker Health and Safety
- Policy Background on the Temporary Worker Initiative
- Temporary Worker Initiative (TWI) Bulletin on Injury and Illness Recordkeeping Requirements
- Temporary Worker Initiative (TWI) Bulletin on Personal Protective Equipment
- Temporary Worker Initiative (TWI) Bulletin on Whistleblower Protection Rights
- Temporary Worker Initiative (TWI) Bulletin on Safety and Health Training
- Temporary Worker Initiative (TWI) Bulletin on Hazard Communication

NEW Temporary Worker Initiative Bulletin No. 6 – Bloodborne Pathogens
NEW Temporary Worker Initiative Bulletin No. 7 - Powered Industrial Truck Training
Temporary Workers' Rights Pamphlet

OSHA News Releases – Temporary Workers

December 2016

- 12/14/2016 - Region 1 OSHA News Release - OSHA cites Massachusetts packaging company for serious safety, health hazards following injury to temporary worker
- 12/14/2016 - Region 4 OSHA News Release - Alabama auto parts supplier to Kia and Hyundai, staffing agencies face $2.5M in fines after robot fatally crushes young bride-to-be

October 2016

- 10/25/2016 - OSHA Trade Release - OSHA and the American Staffing Association renew alliance to protect temporary workers
- 10/24/2016 - Region 5 OSHA News Release - OSHA cites Ohio vehicle parts manufacturer for failing to protect its workers from machine hazards

September 2016

- 09/12/2016 - Region 4 OSHA News Release - Auto parts manufacturer, staffing agency continue to expose workers to fall, amputation, electrocution hazards at Georgia facility

- Temporary Worker Bulletins Under Development
  - Respiratory Protection
  - Noise
## WPV, Ergonomic and Heat Citation/HAL Breakdown
### Fiscal Year 2017

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<th>Workplace Violence</th>
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Current NEPs

- Combustible Dust
- Federal Agencies
- Hazardous Machinery
- Hexavalent Chromium
  - Lead
- Primary Metal Industries
- Process Safety Management
  - Shipbreaking
- Trenching and Excavation
Combustible Dust NEP

OSHA and State plan partners performed 476 total inspections in CY17:
- 313 Unprogrammed / 163 Programmed
- 319 Inspections found with violations
  - Major violations
    - Walking Working Surfaces
    - General Duty Clause

Proposing changes to the NEP:
- New targeting based on 10 years of inspection experience
- Considerable technical guidance information for compliance officers
AIRBORNE OVEREXPOSURE SAMPLES - CY 17 - REGION 4

- PRIMARY METALS: 15
- LEAD: 4
- CHROMIUM (VI): 6
- SILICA AND DUST: 53
- FORMALDEHYDE: 2
- OTHER: 10
AIRBORNE OVEREXPOSURE PRIMARY METALS NAICS
CY 17 - REGION 4

- Copper Fume (as Cu): 3
- Iron Oxide Fume: 1
- Silica, Crystalline Quartz (Respirable Fraction): 1
Current REPS

- Regional Emphasis Program - Falls in Construction - OIS Code "FALL"
- Regional Emphasis Program for Landscaping and Horticultural Services (NAICS 541320, 541690, and 561730) - OIS Code "LANDSCPE"
- Regional Emphasis Program for Electrical Hazards - OIS Code "OHPWRLNE"
- Local Emphasis Program for Ship/Boat Building and Repair (NAICS 336611, 336612, 488390, 713930, and 811490) - OIS Code "XBOATPRG"
- Regional Emphasis Program for High Noise Industries (NAICS 311615, 321xxx, 3261xx, 3273xx (except 327331), 332xxx, 336360, 336612, 337215, and 339113) - OIS Code "HINOISE"
- Regional Emphasis Program addressing Sanitation and Clean-up operations in the NAICS Groups 311xxx & 3121xx - Food and Kindred Products - OIS Code "FOODPRO"
- Regional Emphasis Program for Powered Industrial Truck - OIS Code "FORKLIFT"
- Local Emphasis Program for Federal Agencies - OIS Code "FEDSAFE"
- Regional Emphasis Programs for Poultry Processing Facilities - OIS Code "POULTRY4"
- Regional Emphasis Program for Safety Hazards in Auto Parts Industry - NAICS 3363XX (Motor Vehicle Parts Manufacturing) - OIS Code "AUTOSUP"
- Local Emphasis Program for Construction - OIS Code "FEDCONST"
- Regional Emphasis Program (REP) for Programmed Maritime Inspections - OIS Code "MARITIME"
- Regional Emphasis Program for Lead - OIS Code "LEAD"
Workers employed in the poultry industry face many serious hazards that can lead to serious injury, illness and death, including dangerous equipment, musculoskeletal disorders, high noise levels, exposure to infectious pathogens and hazardous chemicals such as ammonia, chlorine, and antimicrobial agents.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reports that poultry workers suffer serious injuries at rates twice as high as workers in private industry and suffer work-related illnesses at rates more than six times as high.

A few hazards identified:

- Ergonomics
- Hazard Communication
- Hexavalent Chromium
- Biological Hazards - Histoplasmosis, Campylobacter, Psittacosis
Lead overexposure is one of the most common overexposures found in industry and is a leading cause of workplace illness.

Lead adversely affects numerous body systems and causes forms of health impairment and disease that arise after periods of exposure as short as a few days (acute exposure) or as long as several years (chronic exposure).

The frequency and severity of medical symptoms increases with the concentration of lead in the blood.

**May 2015**
- **05/05/2015** - [Region 4 OSHA Regional News Brief](http://example.com) - Sabel Steel Service Inc. exposes workers to unsafe levels of lead, fall and electrical shock hazards

**April 2015**
- **04/16/2015** - [Region 4 OSHA Regional News Brief](http://example.com) - Johnson Controls Battery Group again fails to monitor workers for lead exposure, faces OSHA penalties of $61K

**January 2015**
- **01/26/2015** - [Region 4 OSHA Regional News Brief](http://example.com) - Florida-based bridge coating company exposes workers to unsafe levels of lead; OSHA cites company for serious safety and health hazards

**July 2012**
- **07/18/2012** - [Region 4 OSHA News Release](http://example.com) - US Department of Labor sues American Bronze Foundry and orders reinstatement of whistleblower fired for complaining about lead exposures
Stone Products, Sawmills and Planing Mills, Plastics Products, Wood Pallets and Skids, and the Fabricated Structural Metal industries

Approximately 30 million workers are exposed to hazardous noise exposures on the job and over 9 million are at risk for hearing loss from occupational exposure to noise, which remains a persistent cause of employee illness in the workplace.

Exposure to excessive levels of noise, coupled with inadequate personal protective equipment and the lack of an effective hearing conservation program continue to put workers at significant risk of permanent impairment.

Noise-induced hearing loss is one of the most common occupational diseases and is the second most self-reported occupational illness or injury.

According to 2015 BLS data, the incidence rate of hearing losses in Wood Product Manufacturing, Poultry Processing, and Cement and Concrete Product Manufacturing were between 3.5 and 16 times that of Private Industry.

Eighty-two noise violations were identified in Fiscal Year 2017.
NOISE SAMPLES AND OVEREXPOSURE
CY 17 - REGION 4

![Bar chart showing comparison between all samples and overexposures]

- All Samples: 902
- Overexposures: 334
NOISE SAMPLES AND OVEREXPOSURE BY NAICS
CY 17 - REGION 4
Region IV Stand-downs

- Georgia Struck-by Alliance 2018 Stand-down (National Work Zone Awareness Week 2018, April 9 - 13)
  - Registration Link -
    http://www.agcga.org/web/Safety/Struck_By_Stand_Down_2018.aspx

- Region IV - 2018 Landscaping/Heat Illness Prevention Stand-Down (April 17 - 18, 2018)
  - AGC Georgia - Heat Illness Prevention Stand-down -
  - AGC Georgia - Landscaping Stand-down -
    http://www.agcga.org/web/Safety/OSHA_Region_4_Landscaping_Stand_Down.aspx
  - Safety Alliance - https://safetyalliance.org/osha/

- OSHA National Fall Prevention Stand-down (May 7 - 11, 2018)
- OSHA Safe and Sound Campaign (August 13 - 19, 2018)
- Trenching Safety Initiative (NUCA Stand-Down June 18 - 23, 2018)