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OSHA's Presence in Stimulus Funded Projects

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) allocates approximately \$140 billion to the construction industry. To ensure worker safety, OSHA will implement a multi-tier enforcement program on ARRA funded projects. Some of the projects OSHA will closely follow include: construction, maintenance and demolition work on roadways, bridges, airport runways and terminals; construction at federal facilities including military installations; green energy projects including wind farms, coal power plants, solar power plants and grid improvements. In

Hazards in Construction

Although physical hazards are the most readily seen, airborne hazards also exist in construction. These hazards include:

- silica dust,
- asbestos,
- hexavalent chromium,
- lead,
- organic solvents,
- and many others dependent upon the specific skilled trade.

Exposure to airborne hazards can result in occupational diseases. It is estimated that over 50,000 workers die annually from occupational diseases.

More than fifteen employees are killed in the workplace everyday. One in five employee deaths occur in the construction industry.

OSHA investigators will be brought on board to strengthen enforcement and provide training and outreach to employers and workers. To read the Secretary of Labor's message in late April visit http://www.dol.gov/_sec/media/speeches/20090428_NLC.htm

May, OSHA began collecting injury and illness data from approximately 20,000 construction firms across the country. The collected data will enable OSHA to focus its resources in the areas with the greatest need. The U.S. Secretary of Labor spoke about OSHA's role in protecting workers on stimulus-related projects in late April. Her message made very clear the Department of Labor's intent to ensure stimulus money is allocated to firms who do their utmost to ensure a safe working environment. Because stimulus funds are intended to create new jobs, 36 new



Hazards abound, the construction industry has a high rate of worker injuries.

Combustible Dusts—OSHA Ruling to Follow

During the course of the past thirty years over 130 workers have been killed by combustible dusts. Add to that number the over 780 workers who have been injured and the need for

guidance is apparent. OSHA is initiating a comprehensive rule-making on combustible dust. OSHA will conduct stakeholder meetings to discuss possible regulatory methods and request data and comments on

issues pertaining to this workplace threat. The types of dusts include, but are not limited to, metal, wood, plastic, rubber, coal, flour, sugar and paper. Industries where combustible dusts have the potential to exist are varied and include: food, grain, tobacco, plastics, wood, paper, pulp, rubber, furniture, textiles, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, dyes, coal, metals and fossil fuel power generation. A dust does not have to be inherently combustible to have the potential to explode; in the right concentration and under the certain conditions certain non-combustible dusts can ignite. Currently, the National Fire Prevention Association (NFPA) has recommendations to prevent these explosions. For additional information visit:

<http://www.osha.gov/dsg/combustibledust/standards.html>

For NFPA codes and standards visit: <http://www.nfpa.org/categoryList.asp?categoryID=124&URL=Codes%20and%20Standards&cookie%5Ftest=1>

Pocket Field Reference Guide Update

The Pocket Field Reference Guide was mailed to all who requested a copy. If you have not requested a copy and would like one please contact us at marketing@datachem.com. To view an online copy visit us at <http://www.datachem.com/2009PocketGuide.pdf>

Analysis of the Month

Metals

For the month of June ALS Salt Lake is offering a discount on our **Metals Analysis by NIOSH 7300**; a panel of 27 elements for \$100, a single element for \$40 with each additional element for \$15.

For further details contact us at info@datachem.com For a complete list of Salt Lake's analytical services visit us at www.datachem.com.

To take advantage of the offer simply refer to the newsletter in your analytical request. Discount is only available at our Salt Lake facility.

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