Aerosol Monitoring & Analysis, Inc.

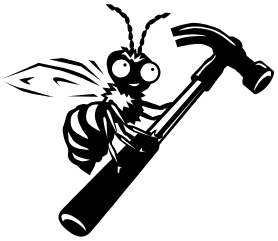
The Monitor

June 2007 *Issue 27*

From the Director...

It is almost overwhelming the amount of time and effort we spend to ensure compliance with the various environmental, health and safety workplace regulations. While we are so consumed with meeting all these work-related requirements, I would like everyone to reflect on their responsibilities for ensuring a safe and healthful home environment.

As kids begin their summer vacations and the "honey do" lists grow for summer projects, keep safety in mind as you tackle your household projects. Store household chemicals in a safe, cool, dry place and out of reach of children. Use PPE (hearing protection, eye protection, gloves) when operating some outdoor machinery like chain saws, hedge trimmers, and weed eaters. Everyone should wear a helmet when riding a bicycle. Use extreme caution when climbing ladders or getting on a roof. Have a household emergency action plan in the event of a fire or natural disaster. Use sunscreen from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and drink plenty of water when spending time outdoors. And remember your pets need a break from the heat as well.



I hope you have a safe and productive summer at work and at home.

Sincerely,

E. Rush Barnett

E. Rush Barnett, CSP, CIH
Director of Training

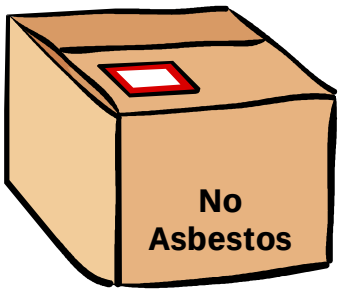
OSHA UPDATES ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION STANDARD

On Feb. 14, 2007, OSHA published a final rule updating its electrical installation standard. These first such changes in 25 years take effect August 13, 2007. The rule revises Subpart S of OSHA's electrical standard for general industry and includes alternative methods for classifying and installing equipment in Class I hazardous locations. Requirements are also updated for ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI) with new provisions on wiring for carnivals, parking and other lots, and industrial substations.

To explain its rationale for the revision, OSHA cited Bureau of Labor Statistics data showing that between 1992 and 2002, an average of 295 employees died per year from contact with electric current. Another 4,309 employees lost time from work because of electrical injuries. Go to *www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL _REGISTER* to download the final rule.

ARE LABELS TELLING THE TRUTH?

A letter had been sent by the EPA to schools in Maryland and West Virginia regarding the testing of post-renovation building replacement materials for the presence of asbestos. The letter stated that the LEA's could not use MSDS sheets to determine the presence of asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM). This is still a confusing issue.



A school system in WV recently bought 12"x12" floor tiles and mastic. In order to comply with the EPA letter, and be proactive with the testing of new building materials, the school system tested the floor tile and mastic by TEM.

The floor tile tested trace to 2.5% asbestos. The mastic tested 2-3% asbestos!

The box that the material came in stated that the (floor) covering in this box does **NOT** contain asbestos. The tile was manufactured in the United States.

The advice that MDE is giving is to test all materials even if the box states there is no asbestos.

A dilemma results based on the good faith efforts of the school system to install non-ACBM and relying on the manufacturer's package label information. But if there is doubt, test the suspect material using the appropriate analytical method whether it be PLM or TEM.

Maryland House Bill 1137 for Hospitals - Safe Lifting Practices

A bill was signed into law by Governor Martin O'Malley on April 10, 2007 regarding Safe Patient Lifting Practices for hospitals. The new bill takes effect October 1, 2007.

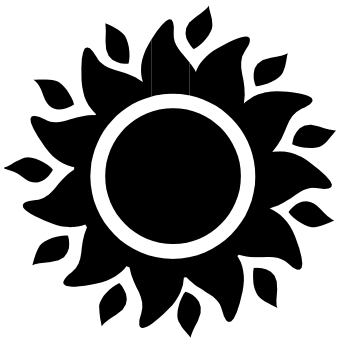
The bill approved by the Governor is for all hospitals in Maryland to establish a safe patient lifting committee by December 1, 2007 consisting of management and employees of the hospital.

Safe Patient Lifting is the use of mechanical devices instead of manual methods to lift, transfer or reposition patients.

After the committee is formed they must develop a policy for the hospital by July 1, 2008.

The reason behind the bill is to reduce employee injuries associated with patient lifting.

The law requires that the committee develop or enhance the hazard assessment of lifting patients, enhanced use of mechanical lifting devices, specialized lift teams and training for all patient care personnel at the hospital. The law also requires that space and construction design for the lifts be incorporated into renovations or construction. In addition, it calls for hospitals to have an evaluation process to see if the policy that was written by the hospital is effective.



HEAT STRESS PREVENTION

From construction workers to food service employees, they often find themselves working in hot and humid environments. Summer heat kills nearly 240 Americans each year. According to the National Weather Service (NWS), between 1936 and 1975, almost 20,000 people died in the U.S. due to the effects of heat and solar radiation.

To dissipate heat, the human body varies the rate and depth of blood circulation, and loses water through the skin and sweat glands. The skin handles 90% of the body's heat-dissipating function. By itself, sweating does nothing to cool the body unless the water is removed by evaporation. Clothing such as rain suits designed to keep a person dry prevents sweat from evaporating, which adds to the heat stress load. The same can be said for many forms of personal protective gear such as coveralls and rubber boots.

The severity of heat disorders increases with age and reduced physical condition. For example, the exposure that causes heat cramps in a 17-year-old may cause heat exhaustion in someone age 40 and heatstroke in a person over age 60.

Heat cramps, Heat Exhaustion, and Heatstroke (Sunstroke) are the heat-related disorders of greatest concern. Preventive measures include:

- *Acclimitization. The longer you work in the heat, the better your body becomes adjusted to the heat. Experienced workers should limit their time in hot working conditions to 50% of the first day shift, 60% of the second day, 80% of the third day, and a full shift on the fourth day.*
- *Hydration. To prevent dehydration, adequate fluids should be consumed before, during and after the job. Don't be afraid of drinking too much water. Drink at set intervals rather than only when thirsty.*
- *Administrative Controls. Increase rest break frequency and duration. Schedule strenuous jobs to be performed during cooler times of the day. Train the workers.*

Supervisors must have a working knowledge of heat stress and heat-related disorders in order to protect workers. The debilitating effects of heat stress impair not only a worker's safety but also the worker's efficiency and productivity.

(Ref. Professional Safety, April 2007)

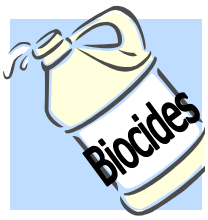
WHO PAYS FOR OSHA-REQUIRED PPE? (New PPE Rule by November)

In response to a federal lawsuit filed by the AFL-CIO and the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union, the Department of Labor told the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia that OSHA would issue a final rule on employer payment for employees' personal protective equipment in November, 2007.

OSHA first proposed a PPE rule in 1999 that would require employers to pay the costs of workers' protective clothing, lifelines, face shields and other equipment, but final disposition was delayed in various stages of rulemaking.

(Ref: NSC, OSHA Up To Date, May 2007)

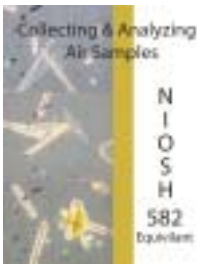
MOLD CLEANUP AND BIOCIDES



Biocides are substances that can destroy living organisms. The use of a chemical or biocide that kills organisms such as mold (10% chlorine bleach, for example) is not recommended as a routine practice during mold cleanup. There may be instances, however, when professional judgment indicates its use (i.e. when immunecompromised individuals are present).

If you choose to use disinfectants, or biocides, always ventilate the area and exhaust the air to the outdoors. Never mix chlorine bleach solution with other cleaning solutions or detergents that contain ammonia because toxic vapors could be produced. Note: Dead mold may still cause allergic reactions in some people, so it is not enough to simply kill the mold. It must also be removed.

NEW/REVISED COURSES: NIOSH 582 and MOLD INSPECTION/ASSESSMENT



Last year AMA launched the NIOSH 582 course for collecting and analyzing asbestos air samples. Course feedback has been outstanding. Also, we have revised the Mold Inspection & Assessment course so that it is a 2-day course. The course is shorter and the price has been reduced.

See our website for course descriptions, schedules and registration information.

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Training Schedule Enclosed