



The Safety Frontline

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Upcoming Presentations

In a few short months the conference season will be in full swing and JC Safety & Environmental, Inc. President Pam Ferrante will be traveling around speaking on various topics. If you are planning on attending any of these upcoming conferences, please join her:

- Ohio Safety Congress in Columbus, Ohio; Wednesday April 2nd; 12:30 PM – Topic: “What the Heck is Global Harmonization and Why Should I Care?”

- AIHce 2008 in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Wednesday June 4th at 10:00 AM; Topic: “Are You Trapped by Your Life as a Consultant?”

- AIHce 2008; Wednesday June 4th at 1:00 PM; Pam will be part of a 10-person Roundtable Panel titled “Older Workers, Newer Thinking”.

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Big Changes for Us!!

The end or beginning of a calendar year is often a time to make changes and we're no exception. As of January 1, 2008, we've changed our name to more accurately reflect the direction we intend to take in the coming years. We are happy to announce that we are now:

JC Safety & Environmental, Inc.

Previously we had focused primarily on occupational safety and health services, but over time we have realized that our clients need more and we believe it is our responsibility to meet their needs for a more comprehensive array of SH&E services.

As always, we welcome your thoughts and feedback as well as you request for assistance and we are thankful for your support thus far. Feel free to call or email us any time – (info@jcsafety.com; 412.414.4769)

Keeping it Safe!
Pam Ferrante, CSP, CHMM
President

JC Safety & Environmental, Inc. is certified by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania as a Woman Business Enterprise (WBE), as a Woman/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (W/DBE) through the Pennsylvania Unified Certification Program, and by the United States Small Business Administration as a HUB Zone Small Business

OSHA Has Been Really Busy!!!!

In the waning months of 2007 OSHA got busy and finally published two major documents related to their ongoing process of Standards review and update. In the first case they finally put to bed the issue of who pays for PPE, an issue they were first ordered to deal with in 1999. In the second case, they published a draft Confined Space Entry Standard for the Construction Industry.

PPE

Many of OSHA's Standards clearly state that it is the employer's responsibility to provide and pay for all PPE related to compliance with the Standard. Those situations were never in dispute. However in some of its older standards dating back to OSHA's inception in the early 1970s, the use of the wording "pay for" was not included. OSHA had always maintained that "provide" meant "pay for", but an OSHRC ruling chastised OSHA, mandating that they should say what they mean.

For various reasons, it took almost ten years for OSHA to finally make its position clear and the voluminous document published with the Final Rule attempts to demonstrate that OSHA listened carefully to all points of view before determining how to best approach this issue. Although the document runs 140 pages, the crux of the rule is that employers are required to provide and pay for all PPE required by any applicable Standard with the exception of some types of safety footwear, prescription safety glasses and some types of everyday clothing worn for protection against various hazards.

Published in the Federal Register on November 15, 2007, this Final Rule is in effect as of February 13, 2008, however, OSHA is extending its compliance deadline for six months until May 15, 2008. This was done to assure that smaller companies will not be adversely impacted and in order for existing collective bargaining agreements to be modified if they will not expire prior to the compliance date.

The full text of the Final Rule can be reviewed at the following link:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=20094

Confined Space Entry for Construction

Unlike the PPE rule which is final, this was published as a Proposed Rule in the Federal Register on November 28, 2007. This Proposed Rule has an even longer history in that OSHA first published an Advanced Notice of Public Rulemaking in 1980, although no further action had been taken since then. The General Industry Standard was published as a Final Rule in 1993, but because OSHA does not believe this Standard adequately addresses some of the unique issues in confined spaces within the construction industry, a separate document is now before us.

This proposed regulation follows many of the same processes for safe entry into confined space entry including identification, testing, work practices, the use of a written permit to safely enter the space, and employee training. The major difference between the two is that the proposed construction standard uses four different confined space definitions, each with its own specific procedures for safe entrance. These include Continuous System Permit Required Confined Space; Controlled-Atmosphere Confined Space; Permit Required Confined Space; and Isolated Hazard Confined Space.

All comments must be submitted to OSHA by January 28, 2008. You can read/download the full text of the Proposed Rule at this link:

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=20174

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Frontline's Fast Facts

OSHA recently released its Top 10 – the most frequently cited violations of the General Industry Standards in 2007.

As in previous years, the list doesn't change much. As you look at the list, do you think your company could pass an OSHA compliance inspection? If not, maybe you better get busy.

1. Hazard Communication
2. Respiratory Protection
3. Lockout/Tagout
4. Powered Industrial Trucks
5. Electrical – Wiring Methods
6. Machine Guarding
7. Electrical – General Requirements
8. Personal Protective Equipment
9. Mechanical Power Transmission Apparatus
10. Guarding Floor/Wall Opening/Holes

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CFAT's Appendix A Finally Released

OSHA wasn't the only Federal agency busy at the close of 2007. On November 2, 2007, the Department of Homeland Security finally released its long-awaited Appendix A; the final piece of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) first published on April 9, 2007

For various reasons, the list of chemicals that trigger some of the CFATS provisions were reserved pending further comment and review, which was extended until May 9, 2007. This list of chemicals was identified by DHS because it is believed that they have the greatest potential to create significant human life or health consequences.

Appendix A lists approximately 300 chemicals of interest and includes common industrial chemicals such as chlorine, propane and anhydrous ammonia as well as specialty chemicals such as arsine and phosphorus trichloride. Facilities that possess chemicals of interest at or above the listed screening threshold quantities (STQs) are required to complete the Top-Screen within 60 calendar days of the publication of Appendix A (January 2, 2008). The results of the Top-Screen dictate further action based upon an assessment of the security hazards posed by the use of the specific substance by the company in a quantity that might be considered of interest to a terrorist group.

Even though the deadline for completion of the Top Screen has passed, if you have any questions on this process or whether or not your company is required to comply, please get in touch with us and we'll help you figure it all out.

FRONTLINE'S FAST FREEBIES



Who says you can't get something for nothing? In every issue we will bring you two freebies. Go get 'em!

1. If you are a regular reader of the *Safety Frontline*, you know we frequently refer to items available for free downloading or order in this section. We have another publication that we think deserves your review and attention. It's entitled: "*Simple Solutions: Ergonomics for Construction Workers*". At just over 90 pages, a thorough review will take some time, but we've found that the topics are self-contained and can stand alone, so you can pick and choose those which apply to your organization. As with all NIOSH publications, downloading is available on their website or you can order one with a glossy cover. <http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/docs/2007-122/>
2. The Consumer Product Safety Commission offers hundreds of short video clips on a wide variety of consumer-related safety hazards. While many of these brief video clips are related to consumer types of safety hazards, incorporating them into an off-the-job training program or a quick tool box talk can help spice up your presentation. The clips are free to download and edit at <http://www.cpsc.gov/mpeg.html>.

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