December 11, 2018 revisions to the MIOSHA Lead Standards

Michigan is the first state to lower acceptable blood lead levels for workers! The administrative rules were updated lowering acceptable blood lead levels, replacing decades-old standards. The diagnosis and treatment of lead exposure is based on the blood lead level (BLL) measured in micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood (μg/dL). Former MIOSHA rules allowed workers to have BLLs of 50 - 60 μg/dL before they had to be removed from lead exposure. Under the former rules, they could return to work when their BLL was below 40 μg/dL. The new MIOSHA rules require that employees be removed from lead exposure when their BLL reaches 30 μg/dL and may not return to work involving lead exposure until their BLL is below 15 μg/dL. The average BLL in the general population is 1.12 μg/dL.

The revised rules were filed with Michigan’s Office of the Great Seal on December 11, 2018, with an immediate effective date. MIOSHA’s enforcement divisions are implementing a 60-day temporary stay on the enforcement of new blood lead levels in order to allow employers time to ensure compliance with the new requirements, giving them until Monday, February 11, 2019.

Part 310. Lead in General Industry

Part 603. Lead Exposure in Construction

AMENDED Standards – 29 MIOSHA Standards are amended effective December 19, 2018

Amended standards are available on the MIOSHA Standards website for your Review:

- CS Part 6 Personal Protective Equipment
- CS Part 10 Cranes and Derricks
- CS Part 12 Scaffolds and Scaffold Platforms
- CS Part 605 Methyleneedianiline (MDA) in Construction
- CS Part 609 Cadmium in Construction
- CS Part 620 Ventilation Control for Construction
- CS Part 621 Health Hazard Control for Specific Equipment and Operations for Construction
- GI Part 40 Safety-Related Work Practices
- GI Part 77 Grain Handling Facilities
- GI Part 302 Vinyl Chloride
- GI Part 303 Methylenedianiline (MDA) in General Industry
- GI Part 309 Cadmium in General Industry
- GI Part 310 Lead in General Industry
- GI Part 350 Carcinogens
- GI Part 380 Occupational Noise Exposure in General Industry
- GI Part 381 Ionizing Radiation
- GI Part 433 Personal Protective Equipment
- GI Part 474 Sanitation
- GI Part 511 Temporary Labor Camps
- GI Part 529 Welding, Cutting & Brazing
- GI & CS Part 304 Ethylene Oxide
- GI & CS Part 306 Formaldehyde
- GI & CS Part 307 Acrylonitrile
- GI & CS Part 308 Inorganic Arsenic
- GI & CS Part 311 Benzene
- GI & CS Part 314 Coke Oven Emissions
- GI & CS Part 431 Hazardous Work in Laboratories
- GI & CS Part 432 Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response
- GI & CS Part 470 Employee Medical Records and Trade Secrets
STOP FALLS. SAVE LIVES. 2019 Campaign to Focus on Slips and Trips

Since the start of MIOSHA’s Stop Falls. Save Lives. safety awareness campaign two years ago, fatalities due to falls have decreased, but there are still too many! This year’s 2019 campaign will focus on reducing worker deaths due to slips and trips.

In 2016, prior to the start of the Stop Falls. Save Lives campaign, fatalities due to falls were at 51 percent (22 of 43 fatalities); dropped to 39 percent after the first year of the campaign in 2017, and decreased further to 17 percent in 2018. Each year, the campaign targets specific industries or areas where worker fatalities due to falls have increased.

Raising awareness of fall hazards through continuous education and training, having appropriate equipment, and maintaining diligent safety practices on the job site, will further help decrease workplace fatalities due to falls.

Michigan Worker Deaths of 2018

The 35th, 36th, and 37th reported Michigan worker deaths of 2018 occurred on December 4, 12, and 15. The information below shares preliminary details about the most recent fatalities reported to the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) which is believed to be covered by the MIOSH Act. The description reflects information provided to MIOSHA at the initial report of the incident and is not the result of the official MIOSHA investigation.

Preliminary summary of incident #35: On December 4th, at approximately 7:00 p.m., a 24-year-old mechanic was found underneath a powered industrial truck.

Preliminary summary of incident #36: On December 12th, at approximately 7:40 a.m., a 36-year-old operator was loading garbage and was run over by a heavy loader.

Preliminary summary of incident #37: On December 15th, a 44-year-old general maintenance worker died from injuries sustained from a propane gas explosion that occurred on July 8, 2018. Propane tanks were being used to heat a cabin to exterminate bedbugs.

There were 39 MIOSHA-related deaths in 2017. 2009 saw the lowest number with 24. Every life is precious. Our mutual goal must be that every employee goes home at the end of their shift every day.