



Safety Update

Date: September 2, 2015

AGC SAFETY MEETING & CONFINED SPACE PROGRAM

September 25, 9:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.; AGC office (Columbus)

The next AGC of Ohio Safety Meeting will feature a presentation about implementing OSHA's new [Confined Spaces in Construction](#) standard. A group of safety professionals from different parts of the state have been working collaboratively to create documents and best practices that companies can use as a model. They will share their information, and participants will be encouraged to share their own efforts to comply. Additional agenda items include OSHA regulatory and enforcement update and a roundtable discussion about safety matters of interest.

To attend, RSVP to Andrea Ashley at andrea@agcoho.com or (614) 486-6446.

IMPORTANT EPA LEAD PAINT PROGRAM UPDATES FOR RENOVATION, REPAIR AND PAINTING CONTRACTORS

It is time to start thinking about renewing your U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (LRRP) program certifications, [as previously reported by AGC](#). All construction firms and their employees are subject to the LRRP rule, if they perform regulated renovation activities, such as work that disturbs lead-based paint in homes, child-care facilities or schools, with kids six years or younger, built before 1978.

For important updates for RRP contractors working in EPA administered jurisdictions, [click here](#). This includes Ohio and all but 14 states that operate their own LRRP program. (The authorized states are [AL](#), [DE](#), [GA](#), [IA](#), [KS](#), [MA](#), [MS](#), [NC](#), [OK](#), [OR](#), [RI](#), [UT](#), [WA](#) and [WI](#).) Remember that renovation firm and renovator certifications both expire every five years. Under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), EPA may file an enforcement action against violators of the LRRP rule seeking penalties of up to \$37,500 per violation, per day.

AGC of America has indicated that the EPA is concerned that some renovation firms have trained employees but the firm itself is not certified. All businesses providing regulated renovation activities must be certified (even sole proprietorships). Firm certification involves the submission of an application and fee to EPA.



AGC BOOKSTORE SEPTEMBER SPECIAL: 20% OFF SAFETY PRODUCTS

The AGC of America Bookstore has a variety of safety products ranging from basic safety brochures all the way to OSHA regulation books for on-site construction safety. AGC also has several DVD's designed to help keep constructions workers knowledgeable about their surroundings and how to prevent accidents from happening on the job site. Help your construction workers development a well-rounded knowledge of what it takes to be safe at work with these safety products. Offer expires October 1, 2015. View products and order [here](#).



COMPETITION SHOWCASES SOLUTIONS THAT REDUCE RISK OF WORKPLACE INJURIES

The Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC) is seeking employers who developed or implemented an innovative solution to an occupational safety or health issue for the next Safety Innovations Competition. Private, public and self-insuring employers in Ohio are invited to apply for the competition, which showcases successful innovations and helps other Ohio employers in their safety efforts and inspires more innovative solutions.

Innovations can come in many forms, whether it's a change in equipment, machinery, processes or procedures. Employers should be prepared to share how their innovations reduced safety, ergonomic and occupational health risks for their employees. To be eligible, employers must have an Ohio BWC policy number and be current on all monies owed to BWC. The innovations must have been placed into service between July 1, 2010, and June 30, 2014, and be currently in use.

The first round of judging starts in October. Finalists will compete for cash awards during the Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2016, which will be held March 9 to 11, 2016, at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. Cash prizes range from \$1,000 to \$6,000. The deadline to apply for the Safety Innovations Competition is Sept. 30. For more information and to apply, visit bwc.ohio.gov.

OSHA DIRECTIVE EXPLAINS NEW PROCESS TO ASSIST EARLY RESOLUTION OF WHISTLEBLOWER COMPLAINTS

OSHA on August 19 issued [policies and procedures](#) for applying a new process for resolving whistleblower disputes. The new process is an early resolution process that is to be used as part of a regional Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) program. The ADR program offers whistleblower parties the opportunity to negotiate a settlement with the assistance of a neutral, confidential OSHA representative who has subject-matter expertise in whistleblower investigations. The [Administrative Dispute Resolution Act](#) requires that each federal agency "adopt a policy that addresses the use of alternative means of dispute resolution and case management."

OSHA piloted an ADR program in two of its regions from October 2012 to September 2013. The results of the early resolution ADR process pilot has resulted in the agency making it available to all of its regions. The directive does not prohibit OSHA whistleblower offices from offering complainants and respondents other alternative dispute resolution processes, such as third-party mediation.

OSHA enforces the whistleblower provisions of 22 statutes protecting employees who report violations of various workplace safety and health regulations, securities laws, trucking, airline, nuclear power, pipeline, environmental, rail, maritime, health care, and consumer product safety laws. For more information, please visit www.whistleblowers.gov.