



Quality People. Quality Projects.

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS UPDATE

Associated General Contractors of Ohio's Government Affairs Update provides information about government related matters of interest to the commercial building industry and AGC's advocacy efforts. It is e-mailed to AGC of Ohio members and available online at www.agcoho.com/advocacy.html. Direct questions and comments to Andrea Ashley, Vice President of Government Relations: andrea@agcoho.com or (614) 486-6446.

April 1, 2016

OSHA ISSUES FINAL SILICA RULE, KEEPS UNATTAINABLE SILICA EXPOSURE LIMIT

The Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) released its [final silica rule](#) that retains many of the flawed provisions AGC warned administration officials about earlier this year. Of primary concern is that the final rule sticks with the same, unattainable silica exposure limit included in the proposed rule. However, the administration did agree to remove the extremely restrictive regulated areas requirement that would have forced construction workers to seal off and restrict access to every part of a construction project where dust is being generated. For more information about the rule, click [here](#) and [here](#). Please [contact your members of Congress](#) and urge them to block implementation of this rule until it can be proven to be technologically and economically feasible.

OHIO BWC ADMINISTRATOR BUEHRER TO STEP DOWN

Today Governor Kasich's office announced that after more than five years heading up the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation (BWC), Administrator Steve Buehrer will resign his post effective April 15. Sarah Morrison, the bureau's chief legal officer, will serve as interim administrator and CEO.

MEDICAL MARIJUANA

Ohio House Medicinal Marijuana Taskforce Concludes Hearings; AGC Urges Panel to Protect Employers Ability to Maintain Drug Free Workplaces: The Ohio House Medicinal Marijuana Taskforce Committee wrapped up hearings yesterday. AGC of Ohio and Ohio Contractors Association (OCA) submitted [joint testimony](#) highlighting the inherent dangers of construction jobsites and the importance of drug free workplaces in the industry. They advised the panel that "under any medicinal marijuana proposal, employers must be able to maintain their current drug free workplace (DFWP) programs, and those programs need to include medical marijuana as a prohibited drug." According to the taskforce's chair, Rep Kirk Schuring (R-Canton), the panel's recommendations will be provided to the Speaker of the House on Tuesday.

Ballot Board Certifies Unrelated Medical Marijuana Initiative: Yesterday the Ballot Board approved a medical marijuana constitutional amendment as a single issue. With the Ballot Board's approval of the issue, the group can begin circulating petitions for the [Ohioans for Medical Marijuana Act](#). In order to place the issue on the November ballot, the committee will have to submit 305,591 valid signatures by July 6.

NAVIGATING THE GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING LABOR & EMPLOYMENT BATTLEFIELD

Free Webinar - April 22, 2016; 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Federal Publications Seminars is hosting a free [webinar](#) on the labor and employment issues facing government contractors. The last few years have seen a number of new laws, regulations and Executive Orders that dictate what contractors can and can't do in a variety of areas, ranging from confidentiality agreements to sick days.

The webinar is sponsored by AGC-member Thompson Hine. Thompson Hine partner Gunjan R. Talati will provide updates to help government contractors better understand the labor and employment landscape and how to traverse it. Topics will include:

- The Fair Pay & Safe Workplaces Executive Order
- Best practices for confidentiality agreements
- Sick day requirements
- How to handle internal investigations in the wake of the Yates Memo

This program is not available for CLE, CPE, CLP or other credits as a live program. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar. [Learn more and register.](#)



ON THE NATIONAL FRONT... Information courtesy of AGC of America

AGC OF AMERICA ANNUAL REPORT: See How AGC Helped Make Firms Busier, Stronger, Safer and Better

Take a look at our new [Annual Report video](#), featuring members from across the country explaining why AGC of America is so valuable to them. You can also read the full [written Annual Report](#) for details on everything the association, our members, and our chapters have accomplished in 2015.

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COMPLIANCE ASSISTANCE OFFERS “PLAIN LANGUAGE” EXPLANATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL RULES

[Construction Industry Compliance Assistance](#) (CICA) is your source for plain language explanations of environmental rules for the construction industry. This information is provided free of charge by the [National Center for Manufacturing Sciences](#) in partnership with [AGC of America](#). Funding for this project has been provided by the [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency](#) and AGC. Inclusion of a resource and/or news item on CICA are provided for informational purposes only and do not imply an endorsement by NCMS, EPA or AGC. Learn more about environmental rules at www.cicacenter.org.

OSHA ISSUES HAZARD ALERT ON SCISSOR LIFTS

During a one-year period, OSHA investigated scissor lift-related incidents that killed 10 people and injured more than 20. The agency states that all of the incidents were preventable, and most stemmed from employers not addressing fall protection, stabilization or positioning.

OSHA recently issued a [hazard alert](#) on scissor lifts, providing the following recommendations:

- Install scissor lifts with guardrails;
- Allow only trained workers to use scissor lifts; training should include never standing on the guardrails and keeping work within easy reach to avoid leaning away from the lift;
- Ensure scissor lifts are stable by following the manufacturer's instructions;
- Use the device outside only in good weather conditions;
- Position scissor lifts at least 10 feet away from electrical power sources; and
- Implement traffic controls to prevent workers or vehicles from approaching the lifts.