



Safety Update

Issue Date: September 26, 2018

SEPTEMBER 28 SAFETY MEETING CANCELLED; NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED NOVEMBER 16

The fourth and final AGC of Ohio Safety Meeting for 2018 is scheduled for November 16. The originally planned September 28 meeting had to be cancelled.

The quarterly AGC of Ohio safety meetings provide an opportunity for safety professionals to network and share ideas and information. Meetings are held from 9:30 a.m. to noon at the AGC of Ohio office in Columbus. Regular agenda items include OSHA regulatory and enforcement activities, workers compensation, AGC and divisions safety efforts, and pertinent safety health matters of interest. Meetings are open to AGC of Ohio members and free of charge.

RSVP attendance to Andrea Ashley at AGC of Ohio: andrea@agcoho.com or (614) 486-6446.

LEGISLATION IMPACTING LICENSING BOARDS & VOLUNTARY INDUSTRY CREDENTIALS/CERTIFICATIONS

A “licensure reform” bill – SB 255 (McColley, R-Napoleon), was voted out of committee and passed the Ohio Senate in June, on the last day before summer break. The bill creates a sunset review every 5 years for all occupational licensure boards (i.e. architects, engineers, licensed trades), and could have an unintended consequence of negatively impacting voluntary, industry-recognized certifications (i.e. various safety certifications, AGC BIM, etc.). View the bill’s text [here](#); legislative analysis [here](#).

Many contractors with a professional license or certification have received action alerts from organizations affiliated with the licensure or certifications. While the notices sound very urgent, please note that the Ohio House will not return until after the November election (the bill has not even been referred to a House committee yet), and some are not convinced the bill would impact voluntary certifications to the extent purported in the action alerts.

AGC of Ohio will work with interested parties and try to clear up any issues with the certification language. Since AGC does not directly work with any Ohio licensure board, it does not make sense for the association to take a formal stance on that aspect of the bill until a preponderance of Ohio’s architectural, engineering and trade licensure groups have taken a position. At that point AGC of Ohio will notify the Legislative Committee and Board to see if AGC should follow suit.

BWC/NIOSH INJURY CLAIM DATA VISUALIZATION CHARTS MAKES INJURY DATA EASIER TO UNDERSTAND

Ohio BWC has partnered with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) to produce [data visualization charts](#) that display summaries of 1.2 million Ohio workers’ compensation injury claims. These data visualization charts – also called dashboards – are an interactive way to share information and explore large data sets efficiently. This interactive tool, covering claims from 2001 to 2011, displays injury trends by year, industry, and diagnosis or cause of injury.

In the coming months, BWC and NIOSH will add data from more calendar years. For more information, visit the data visualization charts [web page](#), or read more about the data visualization charts on the BWC [blog](#).

EPA PROPOSES TO LOWER DUST-LEAD HAZARD STANDARDS, LEAVE LEAD PAINT DEFINITION UNCHANGED

AGC Supports Agency Move Towards Greater Transparency in Regulatory Science

The [U.S. Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\) is proposing](#) to lower the dust-lead hazard standard on floors and window sills (from 40 µg/ft² and 250 µg/ft² to 10 µg/ft² and 100 µg/ft², respectively). At the same time, EPA proposed no changes to the current definition of lead-based paint and indicated that the standard would not apply to future “clearance testing” efforts, citing insufficient information to warrant such changes. In an [August 16 comment letter](#), AGC agreed that EPA currently lacks sufficient data to change the existing lead-based paint definition or the post-abatement dust clearance levels.

AGC’s letter points out that EPA appropriately recognized that more data and information is needed on whether current EPA-recognized laboratories and portable field technologies can reliably measure dust samples at those lower levels. AGC supports EPA’s approach to acknowledging data gaps and the resultant impacts on agency decision-making, which is in keeping with EPA’s broader effort to improve the transparency and integrity of the scientific data. The proposed standards would apply to EPA’s lead abatement and related programs that cover target housing (i.e., most pre-1978 housing) and pre-1978 child occupied facilities. Apart from child occupied facilities, no other public and commercial buildings are covered by EPA’s lead paint program.

SENATE APPROVES AGC-BACKED PACKAGE TO COMBAT OPIOID EPIDEMIC

On Sept. 17, the U.S. Senate approved a bipartisan bill targeting policy changes to help reverse the current opioid crisis. [AGC-supported](#) changes in the bill, which include increasing the number of mental health and substance abuse professionals, providing job training and treatment services to individuals with substance use disorders, and providing support for recovering individuals to transition back into the workforce.

The Senate bill follows a similar effort by the House earlier this year. However, these two bills will need to be reconciled and passed before it goes to the president for signature. AGC will continue to advocate for a final bill prior to the end of the year.

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