

Georgia Local Section

Quarterly Newsletter

For electronic versions see <http://www.georgiaaiha.org/news.html>



Final Rule for Hexavalent Chromium (CrVI) Published

The final rule for hexavalent chromium (CrVI) was published in the February 28, 2006 *Federal Register*, lowering the permissible exposure limit (PEL) from 52 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ CrVI per eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) to 5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. This PEL is higher than the initially proposed PEL of 1.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and is the lowest level considered technologically and economically feasible for all industry sectors by OSHA. OSHA estimates there are approximately 558,000 workers exposed to CrVI, with 352,000 exposed at levels greater than 0.25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and 68,000 exposed to levels exceeding

5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. OSHA admits there is still a significant health risk at the final limit, however the proposed PEL of 1 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ was not feasible to achieve through engineering and work practice controls, especially for certain industries, such as welding and aerospace painting. Several special ancillary provisions were added to the final ruling, including a section for the painting of aircraft or larger aircraft parts; employers will be required to use engineering and work practice controls to reduce exposures to 25 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and then respiratory protection may be used to achieve

compliance with the PEL. The final standards will become effective on May 30, but according to Acting OSHA Administrator Johnathan Snare, the start-up date for the rule's provisions will be November 27, 2006. Engineering controls will be effective starting May 31, 2010. Businesses with less than 20 employees have been given a start-up date of May 30, 2007. The text of the rule and preamble is available at http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=18599.

President's Message

OSHA has already made two important changes this spring. The Hexavalent Chromium Standard has been issued, and Edwin Foulke, Jr., has become OSHA's new Assistant Secretary of Labor. During our March meeting, we discussed the then-proposed Hex Chrome Standard. Those materials are now posted on our web site and linked from our meeting agenda <http://www.georgiaaiha.org/agendafeb06.pdf>. Also, we have included a synopsis of the new standard in this newsletter.

It's time again for our annual elections. If you are interested in running for office, now is the time to let us know. Volunteerism is critical to the success of our local section. As an officer, you have an opportunity to meet new people, help steer our local section activities, and be leader in

our profession. Other volunteer opportunities are also available such as updating the web site, interviewing potential candidates for student scholarships, recruiting members, and participating in a number of other projects. If you are interested, please contact me or any of the board members.

Have you ever considered joining an AIHA committee
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Applications—2006 Future Leaders Institute Now Available

The application for the 2006 Future Leaders Institute is now available. The Future Leaders Institute is a unique and intimate learning experience, one designed for participants to learn alongside and from each other.

An AIHA future leader is someone who has 15 years or less experience in the OEHS profession. AIHA future leaders seek to develop

a level of personal mastery beyond just what it takes to get through the workday. They envision greater possibilities for themselves and others and want to engage in the self-assessment and ongoing learning that will allow them to realize their full potential.

Applications will be accepted until May 1 or until 150 applications are received. Applicants will be

notified by September 1 of acceptance. The meeting is scheduled for October 19-22 in Chicago, Illinois. Visit www.aiha.org/futureleaders.htm to download an application and access additional information about the Institute.

Winter 2006 Local Section Meeting Recap

The 2006 Winter meeting was held on February 22, 2006 at the Georgia Tech Research Institute (GTRI) Conference Center. More than 50 members attended the meeting in part due to the informative and timely agenda focusing on assessing metals exposures.

The meeting began with an overview of the proposed OSHA hexavalent chromium standard by Steve Davis and was followed

up by Steve Tochilin's real world account of assessing cadmium and hexavalent chromium exposures at Delta Air Lines. Vicki Ainslie provided an overview of the proposed EPA lead rules for renovation and repair and how that might apply to the industrial hygiene community. In keeping with past presentations on assessing dermal issues, Dr. Greg Day discussed the latest on beryllium exposures and

the potential contribution of the dermal route to beryllium sensitization.

The meeting concluded with a refresher on various analytical methods for metals detection by Larry Newton. We owe a big thank you to the meeting presenters and organizers (Michelle Dunham and Hilarie Schubert) for making the meeting such a success!

—Lisa Delaney



Future Meetings

Mark Your Calendars!

- Summer Meeting: July 12, 2006 (Wednesday) [exact time and location TBA]



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ENVIRONMENTAL EQUIPMENT/RENTAL, SALES & REPAIRS

ABIH CM Points

The American Board of Industrial Hygiene has awarded 1.0 certification maintenance (CM) points for the Winter 2006 Georgia Local Section Meeting held February 22, 2006.

The approval number is: # 06-1061.

Lawn Mower Safety

Submitted by Wes Barfield, MPH, CIH

Spring means that the yard is turning green and needing some attention it has not had the past few months. Many lawn tools are dangerous and can result into a visit to the emergency room if safety precautions are forgotten. The power lawn mower is one such tool. Every year, people are injured in a variety of ways. Over 75,000 injuries are recorded each year by mowing accidents. Around 10,000 of those injuries are children. Both users of mowers and those who are nearby can be hurt. Below are some easy to use safety tips when mowing the lawn:

1. Do not allow children to ride as passengers on riding mowers.
2. Make certain all safety devices are in place and operating.
3. Start and refuel mowers outdoors, not in a garage or shed.
4. Use a mower with a safety control that stops the mower if the handle is released.
5. Check conditions and do not mow during bad weather, wet grass, or without enough daylight.
6. If your mower is electric, use a ground fault circuit interrupt to prevent electric shock.
7. Pick up objects that are lying in the lawn (pine cones, sticks, stones, toys, etc.) before mowing to prevent objects from flying out of the chute.
8. Use extra caution when mowing slopes. Mow across the slope with a walk-behind mower. Mow up and down the slope with a riding mower to prevent tipping over.
9. Wear close-fitting clothes, sturdy non-slip safety shoes (no bare feet, sandals, or sneakers) while mowing.
10. Wear safety glasses and hearing protection when mowing grass.
11. Don't forget the combined affect on noise exposure while wearing music devices. Many mowers average around 95 decibels alone.
12. Keep children at a safe distance well away from the area that you plan to mow.
13. Turn the mower off and let cool before refueling.
14. Do not pull the mower backward or mow in reverse unless absolutely necessary.
15. Look behind you before mowing in reverse to ensure no one (especially children) is behind you.
16. Turn off the mower and wait for the blades to stop completely before removing the grass catcher, unclogging the discharge chute, or crossing gravel paths, roads, or other areas.
17. Disconnect the spark plug wire and wear heavy leather gloves to remove and/or replace the blades.
18. If you suffer from grass, dusts, or tree allergies, take your allergy medicine 30 minutes before working in the yard.

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WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

On-Line Course

A new on-line web course is being offered on the EPA web site. It is designed primarily for environmental and public health professionals, and has information on mold prevention and remediation. The link is: <http://www.epa.gov/mold/moldcourse/index.html>.

Poison Ivy, Oak, and Sumac Safety

Source: <http://poisonivy.aesir.com/>

Poison ivy is a harmful vine or shrub that grows plentifully in parts of the United States. Species related to poison ivy include poison oak and poison sumac. Poison oak and poison sumac both are shrubs. The tissues of all these plants contain a poisonous oil somewhat like carbolic acid. Many people have been poisoned merely by taking off their shoes after walking through poison ivy. People can get poisoned from other people, but only if the oil remains on their skin. The eruptions themselves are not a source of infection. The leaves of poison ivy are red in early spring. Later in spring, they change to shiny green.

Contact with the plants should be avoided. After the oil has touched the skin, it usually takes some time for it to penetrate and do its damage. Before this happens, it is wise to wash the skin thoroughly several times with plenty of soap and water, for even tiny amounts of the oil will cause irritation. The blisters and red, itching skin may be treated

with dressings of calamine lotion, Epsom salts, or bicarbonate of soda. Scientists have developed a vaccine that can be injected or swallowed. But this is effective only if taken before exposure.

Some key points to remember are:

1. Your pet can run through a patch and get the urushiol on its fur. Then when the animal jumps up on you, or you pet it the urushiol can transfer to your skin.
2. Avoid burning poison ivy, oak or sumac. Poison ivy vines often grow around trees and can be easily overlooked and tossed into a campfire. The smoke can carry the urushiol oil into your respiratory system causing serious allergic reactions inside your nose, throat and lungs.
3. If you are going to be hiking where these plants live, wear protective clothing – long-sleeved shirts, long pants tucked into your socks or boots and cloth or leather gloves.

There are some barrier creams that have been shown to help prevent the oil from getting on your skin. Urushiol oil can remain active on your clothes for several years.

4. If you get the oil on your skin, wash as soon as possible with lots and lots of cool water. The sooner you wash, and the more water you use, the less likely you will be of getting a rash.
5. If the rash covers more than 20 percent of your body, or develops in sensitive areas like the eyes, mouth or genitals, see a doctor immediately. Physicians can prescribe steroids in either cream form or by injections that may decrease the allergic reaction. Extremely sensitive people may need to be hospitalized.
6. In some cases, exposure to these plants can be covered under workers compensation. Further information can be found at <http://poisonivy.aesir.com/>.

Myth	Fact
Poison Ivy rash is contagious.	Rubbing the rashes won't spread poison ivy. You spread the rash only if urushiol oil -- the sticky, resin like substance that causes the rash -- has been left on your hands.
Leaves of three, let them be	Poison sumac has seven to 13 leaves on a branch, although poison ivy and oak have three leaves per cluster.
Do not worry about dead plants	Urushiol oil stays active on any surface, including dead plants, for up to five years.
Breaking the blisters releases urushiol oil that can spread	Not true. But your wounds can become infected and you may make the scarring worse. In very extreme cases, excessive fluid may need to be withdrawn by a doctor.
I've been in poison ivy many times and never broken out. I'm immune.	Not necessarily true. Upwards of 90 percent of people are allergic to urushiol oil, it's a matter of time and exposure. The more times you are exposed to urushiol, the more likely it is that you will break out with an allergic rash. For the first time sufferer, it generally takes longer for the rash to show up—generally in 7 to 10 days.





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GA HB 729—Microbial Professionals Licensing Act

A draft bill was recently proposed by two Georgia Representatives that would create a license for individuals in mold consulting and remediation. The bill is similar to several others that have been introduced around the country in the last couple of years. The intent of the legislation is to ensure that only specifically qualified persons should be utilized for the design and management of mold assessments, directing others performing initial mold assessments, writing protocols

for mold remediation, and conducting post-remediation inspections. Nationally, AIHA supports creation of a commission or task force to identify key issues regarding mold and provide advice to the Legislature. Because of the uncertainty and complexity of the issue of mold, AIHA believes it is proper to create a commission or task force to provide advice and recommendations and allow for a complete look at the science of mold and the requirements for assessment, inspection and

remediation. In the case of this bill, they have included a CIH on the state licensing board. Of course, CIHs are already qualified to conduct mold analysis. Aaron Trippler, Director of Government Affairs for AIHA, submitted comments to the sponsors and is asking for Georgia local section members to begin contacting their individual legislators with recommendations, specifically that the IH education be included in the qualifications, among other things.

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GLS will be forming a working group to provide formal recommendation from our local section. If you are interested in participating, please contact President-elect Margaret Buckalew at mbuckalew@environcorp.com.

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Are You Attending AIHce 2006?

Stop in to support your fellow Local Section members during their presentations! Local Section members presenting at AIHce in Chicago include:

- **Brenda Pool, Monday, May 15, 10:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.,** Moderator for *Ask the Expert: The Impact of Biosecurity and Bioterrorism on Public Health in the Workplace* with Dr. Robert A. Henderson;

- **Michelle Dunham, Tuesday, May 16, 2-6 p.m.** (RT 213 – Fast/Forward: Perspectives from the Future Leaders Institute), *Utilizing Opportunities to Develop Leadership Skills and Advance the Profession;*
- **Lisa Delaney, Thursday, May 18, 1-4:00 p.m.** (Roundtable 242—Respiratory Protection Against SARS, Avian Influenza, and Other Infectious Aerosols), *Overview of Avian Influenza.*

Other Upcoming Conferences:

Indoor Environmental Quality Conference, jointly sponsored by the Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA) and the US EPA, in Research Triangle Park, NC July 17-19, 2006—Local Section Member Barb Epstein will present *Green Trade-Off: Balancing Environmental Benefit and Health Impact of Building Materials.*

President's Message (continued from Page 1)

but weren't sure how to do it? One way to jump-start your involvement is to attend the committee meetings at AIHce. The following link will take you to all of the scheduled events: www.aiha.org/Content/CE/aihce/aihce-ancillary.htm.

Most committees are thrilled to welcome a new member. If you aren't attending the conference or are unable to make the committee meeting, most committees also have conference calls throughout the year. Contact AIHA officers, and they will put you in touch with the committee, or you can contact

the committee chair directly. AIHA has recently reformatted the functions of its committees, and it is now even easier to become an active member! For those of you who need to earn CM points, this is an exciting way to obtain them as you work and interact with other IH's who share your interests. I am currently a member of the Exposure Assessment Strategies, Communications and Training Methods, and the newly formed Student and Early Career Professionals Committee, as well as a past member of the Gases and Vapor Committee. As a result, I have had the opportunity

to deliver presentations at conference roundtables and PDC's, and to help edit a section of a new AIHA publication. The most rewarding part of participation in these groups, however, is meeting new people who quickly become friendly faces at conferences and other IH events. I encourage you to volunteer; your support and new ideas will make our local section and national organization stronger.

I look forward to seeing you at our Vendors Day meeting on Wednesday, April 12th.

—Michelle Dunham, MSPH, MSM



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