



April 18, 2023

Cal/OSHA PROPOSES SIGNIFICANT REVISIONS TO LEAD STANDARD

Cal/OSHA recently released their draft proposal for revisions to the current lead standard. It includes significant changes, including reducing the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) from 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air as a time-weighted average to 10 micrograms per cubic meter of air; and, reducing the Action Level (AL) from 30 micrograms per cubic meter of air to 2 micrograms per cubic meter of air. The proposed changes are significant and will impact the entire construction industry. We are working closely with a broad industry coalition to respond to the draft proposal.

BACKGROUND

In March, the Cal/OSHA Standards Board published revisions to California's standards on lead for both the construction and general industry sectors.

The Cal/OSHA Standards Board's first hearing on the issue is scheduled for April 20, 2023.

The Board argues that the proposed amendments are needed to adequately protect employees who have occupational exposure to lead. They further state that the current regulations are over 40 years old and that more recent evidence demonstrates that harmful health effects can occur at exposure levels well below those currently allowed by existing regulations.

PROJECTED COSTS

The Board estimates that the cost to a typical construction business would be \$10,647 in the first year and \$8,515 in the second year.

NEXT STEPS

Our coalition has responded with a detailed letter of concerns, suggestions and impacts on the industry. We will continue to update as the process moves forward. The coalition letter of concerns and suggestions is attached.