



SAFETY INCENTIVE PROGRAM
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SIP TIP: PORTLAND CEMENT – DON'T GET BURNED

The Building and Construction Trades Department (BCTD), AFL-CIO, and two labor unions reached a settlement April 6 with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) that will require OSHA to inspect U.S. construction sites for safety procedures to reduce worker exposure to portland cement.

The agreement requires OSHA compliance officers to ensure that employers using portland cement are following regulations for safe working procedures. Compliance officers will evaluate whether proper washing facilities and supplies, personal protective equipment, access to material safety data sheets, adequate worker training, and accurate injury and illness recordkeeping are in place.

Basics requirements for working around or near portland cement are as follows:

- Sanitation Standard
 - Clean water;
 - Non-alkaline soap; and
 - Clean towels.
 - These hygiene facilities must be readily accessible to exposed employees.
 - These hygiene facilities must be adequate for the number of exposed employees and the size of the job.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - Boots and gloves shall be provided as necessary and appropriate for the job.
 - Provisions must be made to enable employees to clean or exchange equipment if it becomes ineffective or contaminated on the inside with portland cement while in use.
 - Provisions must be made to ensure that equipment is maintained in a sanitary and reliable condition when not in use.
- Hazard Communication (employer duties)
 - Employers are required to obtain, maintain and make available to employees MSDSs and labels for portland cement.
- Training
 - Hazards associated with exposure to portland cements including hazards associated with the cement's Cr(VI) content;
 - Preventive measures, including proper use and care of PPE, importance of proper hygiene practices, and
 - Employee access to hygiene facilities, PPE, and information (including MSDSs).
- Airborne Exposures
 - 8-hour TWA exposure to portland cement or particules not otherwise regulated (PNOR) do not exceed 15 mg/m³ PEL as total dust.
 - Construction operations with potential inhalation exposures include, but are not limited to, **Terrazzo work, mixing mortar, and mixing concrete**.
 - Where exposures exceed the PEL, employees are provided respirators.

REMINDER: OSHA HAS BEEN GIVEN THE PUSH TO START ENFORCING THESE REQUIREMENTS STARTING ON APRIL 20, 2007