

# PEOSH Standards for Specific Work Settings

## K-12 and Charter Schools

- **Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030)**

### *Overview*

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), hepatitis B (HBV), and hepatitis C (HCV) are serious concerns for workers occupationally exposed to blood and certain other body fluids that contain bloodborne pathogens. Workers in health care and public safety occupations could be potentially exposed.

- **General Industry Asbestos Standard**

### *Overview*

Asbestos is a category of fibrous minerals that were widely used in industry and commercial building products for their durable properties. It is this durability combined with its ability to penetrate deep into the lung which makes it so hazardous to human health. Asbestos fibers enter the body by being breathed in or by being swallowed and can become lodged in the respiratory or digestive systems. Exposure to asbestos can cause many disabling or fatal diseases; these diseases take years to develop.

Among these diseases is asbestosis, a chronic lung disease characterized by lung scarring which stiffens the lung. This interferes with normal lung function, resulting in shortness of breath, increased vulnerability to lung infections, and sometimes death. Occupational exposure to asbestos increases the risk of lung and gastrointestinal cancer and mesothelioma. Mesothelioma is a cancerous tumor that spreads rapidly in the membranes covering the lungs and body organs.

Because of the serious health effects that exposure to asbestos can cause, the handling of asbestos containing materials is regulated in New Jersey.

- **Hazard Communication Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-7)**

### *Overview*

The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) estimates that there are approximately 32 million workers who are exposed to or have the potential for being exposed to one or more chemical hazards in the workplace. The number of exposed or potentially exposed individuals, the rate at which chemicals are being introduced yearly, in addition to over 600,000 chemicals that already exist support the need for workers to be informed about the chemical hazards they may encounter in the workplace (OSHA Fact Sheet 93-26).

Public sector as well as private sector workers can be exposed to hazardous chemicals in the workplace.

- **New Jersey Indoor Air Quality Standard (N.J.A.C. 12:100-13)**

### *Overview*

Exposure to indoor contaminants represents one of the most wide-spread exposures affecting public employees. Contaminants generated indoors can be concentrated in indoor air by inadequate or improperly operating ventilation systems that do not provide enough dilution ventilation. Contaminants can also be introduced by construction/ renovation projects within the building or from exterior sources entering a building. Health effects caused poor indoor air quality can range from general malaise, such as fatigue and headache to more serious symptoms such as asthma and infections. Indoor air quality issues represent approximately 60% of the complaints investigated by PEOSH.

- **PEOSH Medical Services and First Aid Standard (29 CFR 1910.151)**

**Overview**

The PEOSH Medical Services and First Aid Standard (29 CFR 1910.151(c)) establishes minimum standards for the availability of medical care and first aid, including emergency eyewashes and showers. The Standard states "where the eyes and body of any person may be exposed to injurious corrosive materials, suitable facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes and body shall be provided within the work area for immediate emergency use."

- **PEOSH Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories Standard (29 CFR 1910.1450)**

**Overview**

The PEOSH Occupational Exposure to Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories Standard, referred to on this page as the "PEOSH Laboratory Standard," establishes minimum requirements for chemical hygiene practices in laboratories in New Jersey. The Standard includes requirements for a written chemical hygiene program, labeling, use, and handling of hazardous chemicals in a laboratory setting.

- **PEOSH Occupational Noise Standard (29 CFR 1910.95)**

**Overview**

Noise is unwanted sound and is an extensive occupational health problem. More than 30 million Americans are exposed to hazardous sound levels on a regular basis. Unlike many occupational hazards, exposures to harmful sound levels can also occur in recreational settings, homes, almost anywhere. Thus, the effects of a work exposure may be aggravated by other activities. To protect hearing, people should take measures to limit or minimize all exposures to harmful sound levels. This can be done by either controlling the sound source by reducing the level, by isolating the source or muffling the sound or by the use of personal protective equipment such as ear plugs or muffs. Hearing loss occurs in two basic ways: conductive and sensorineural. Conductive hearing loss is caused by a problem with a part of the outer or middle ear. A breakdown or obstruction interferes with sound transmission. This type of hearing loss is common and can often be reversed and hearing restored with appropriate treatment. Sensorineural hearing loss occurs from changes in the receptor hair cells in the inner ear or in the nerves carrying impulses to the brain. This type of hearing loss is usually permanent. Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) is sensorineural and is usually permanent.

- **PEOSH Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Standard (29 CFR 1910.132 – 138)**

**Overview**

PEOSH requires the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce employee exposure to hazards when engineering and administrative controls are not feasible or effective in reducing these exposures to acceptable levels. *As of June 2008, the Standard explicitly states that New Jersey public employers are required to pay for the PPE necessary for compliance.*

- **PEOSH Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illness Standard (29 CFR 1904)**

**Overview**

The Public Employees Occupational Safety and Health (PEOSH) Act requires covered employers to “make, keep, preserve and make available the following records to the Commissioner of Labor and the Commissioner of Health:”

“b. Records regarding work-related deaths, injuries, and illnesses other than minor injuries which require only first aid treatment and which do not involve medical treatment, loss of consciousness, restriction of work or of motion, or transfer to another job.”

The PEOSH Act along with recordkeeping regulations adopted from federal OSHA (29 CFR 1904), provide specific recording and reporting requirements which comprise the framework for the statewide public sector employer recording system.

Under this system, it is essential that data recorded by employers be uniform and accurate to assure the consistency and validity of the statistical data which is used by PEOSH and OSHA for many purposes, including inspection targeting, performance measurement. The data also aid employers, employees and compliance officers in analyzing the safety and health environment at the employer's establishment and preparing the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Annual Survey.

## Right to Know



The “New Jersey Worker and Community Right to Know Act” requires public and private employers to provide information about hazardous substances at their workplaces.

The Act:

- Informs public employees about chemical hazards at their workplace so they can work safely with these hazardous substances;
- Helps firefighters, police, and other emergency responders adequately plan for and respond to incidents such as fires, explosions or spills;
- Provides data for monitoring and tracking hazardous substances in the workplace and the environment.