



State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE
Division of Health

450 W. State Street
Boise, ID 83720-5450
(208) 334-5945

CECIL D. ANDRUS
Governor
JERRY L. HARRIS
Director
Richard H. Schultz
Administrator

January 31, 1994

Ms. Diane Manning
Centers for Disease Control
NIOSH Mail Stop C-15
4676 Columbia Parkway
Cincinnati, OH 45226-1988

Dear Ms. Manning:

Idaho is regulated by the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Health and safety programs within state agencies are in voluntary compliance of the federal regulations. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare has a Worker Health and Safety Program, which provides guidelines for Department employees where chemicals and infectious agents are concerned; however, we do not have jurisdiction over the private sector or other state agencies, and, therefore, have no information regarding their methodology for preventing or tracking domicile contamination resulting from occupational exposure. The information provided is **specific to this department's actions** to protect our employees and to the state's blood lead registry, which is coordinated through this division.

Infectious Agents:

Employees with occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials are required to follow guidelines set forth in our bloodborne pathogens program, which is written in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1030. Within our program, specific procedures are outlined to ensure that exposure incidents involving contamination of the person will receive immediate attention for decontamination through prompt washing, and that contaminated personal protective equipment is removed before leaving the worksite and laundered at the facility.

Chemical and Radiological Agents:

Employees working at the State Bureau of Laboratories are covered by our laboratory safety program which is written in accordance with 29 CFR 1910.1450. In this program, practices and procedures are in place to prevent chemical and radiological exposure above existing standards and to ensure that exposure incidents receive immediate attention to ensure that the person is decontaminated and personal protective equipment is removed and decontaminated at the

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workplace. The program addresses skin and air exposure. Airborne chemical exposure monitoring of work areas and specific work tasks is performed to ensure that employee exposures do not exceed the chemical exposure guidelines of OSHA, NIOSH, and ACGIH, and for chemicals which there are no existing guidelines, an exposure assessment is performed through the Office of Environmental Health. Airborne exposure is considered as a route of transport from the workplace to the home because of gas and vapor body absorption which may be released through exhalation, diaphoresis, contact with hair, etc.

Employees working at hazardous waste sites or at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory are protected from chemical and radiological exposure and the subsequent potential for transport to the home by our hazardous operations, personal protective equipment, and air monitoring program. These programs cover the basic elements of 29 CFR 1910.120, and address exposure monitoring and the use and handling of personal protective equipment which will prevent exposure or identify exposures so appropriate decontamination procedures can be implemented.

Fetal Protection Policy

The Department has a fetal protection policy in which both male and female employees contemplating having a child are encouraged to consult with the Office of Environmental Health regarding occupational exposure to hazardous materials. This policy ensures that reproductive hazards are communicated to the employee and ensure that appropriate modifications, as deemed necessary, are made to the employee's job duties.

Lead

Effective September 1992, rules were promulgated requiring laboratories to report all blood lead concentrations in excess of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ to the Idaho Division of Health. The Division maintains an elevated blood lead registry and conducts follow-up interviews to help characterize the extent and nature of the lead problem in the State. The follow-up is structured to aid in identifying the source of exposure. In cases involving children under 17 years of age, the employers of adult members of the household are identified to help determine whether the source is occupationally related. Sources of adult exposure have been more readily apparent because they have been identified either through self- or employer-provided occupational health programs. Printed information is offered to all affected individuals or their families to help them reduce lead exposure at work and the possible transfer to the home. The Division has no program to work directly with industry, although occasionally business owners contact the Department for information on lead contamination of the workplace.

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I hope this has been helpful. If you have additional questions or comments, please contact Russell Duke at (208) 334-4964.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. Schultz", with a large, stylized flourish extending to the left.

Richard H. Schultz
Administrator

RHS/RD/bb