

## SOUTH CAROLINA OSHA WILL REVISE STANDARDS at a Public Hearing on October 11, 2011

On October 11, 2011, the South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation will hold a public hearing at 10:00 a.m. at the S.C. Department of LLR, 1st floor, room 107, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina. The hearing is being held to revise and amend existing health and safety standards for 29 CFR parts 1910, 1917 and 1926, as necessary to comply with federal laws.

A major portion of the revisions for this hearing is in response to phase III of the standards improvement project (SIP phase III). The hearing will include updates to Subpart E for exit routes, emergency action plans and fire prevention plans to conform to the most current version of the *NFPA101- Life Safety Code*. This subpart will also be renamed as "Exit Routes and Emergency Planning".

Employers will no longer be obligated to prepare and maintain written training certification records for personal protective equipment (PPE). This requirement will be removed in both General Industry and Construction sectors affecting subpart I of 1910 and subpart E of 1926. Also, in subpart I, breathing gas cylinders will be updated to conform to the Department of Transportation (DOT) shipping container specification regulations (see 49 CFR part 180 for more information: <http://law.justia.com/cfr/title49/49-2.1.1.3.15.html>). There will be several additional minor revisions that will affect respiratory protection provisions throughout parts 1910, 1917 and 1926.

The requirement to transfer employee monitoring and medical records to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for expanded health standards will be revised or removed. Generally, the record retention provisions of the standard for "access to employee exposure and medical records" (§1910.1020) will be the required method.

Sanitation requirements for hand washing stations will allow the option of "high velocity air blowers" in addition to hot air drying machines and paper towels. This option will also apply to marine terminal and construction sectors.

Standards for regulating slings and shackles in General Industry and Construction are being updated. This affects sections 1910.184 and 1926.251. Previous load capacity tables in the standards will be replaced with the requirement to have permanently affixed identification markings that depict the maximum load capacity. The effective date for compliance with the revised standards is October 28, 2011.

Trigger levels for returning to duty after medical removal for Lead in General Industry and Construction will be clarified for consistency so that "return to work" will occur when blood-lead levels are *below* the action level of 40 µg/dl. The requirement to prepare and maintain individual training certification records for Cadmium in General Industry and Construction will be removed.

Additional information on these or any other SCOSHA standards may be found on our websites at <<http://www.llr.state.sc.us/>> or <http://www.osha.gov/> or by contacting our Standards Office during regular working hours at (803)796-7682 or (803)796-7661.