Asbestos Program Transition from the Ohio Department of Health

Effective Jan. 1, 2018, the Ohio Department of Health’s asbestos program will be transferred to the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency’s Division of Air Pollution Control. This fact sheet discusses upcoming changes and implementation timelines.

Asbestos Program Transfer
The asbestos program transfer includes applicable Ohio Administrative Code rules, some employee relocation and reassignment of all aspects of the program regulating asbestos hazard abatement contractors, specialists, project designers, workers, training courses and other professionals currently regulated by the Ohio Department of Health (ODH). Ohio EPA has been working to integrate the program into the Agency’s existing asbestos program. The goal of both agencies is to improve internal efficiency while making compliance easier for customers.

What does this mean for industry?
The new combined asbestos program includes some important changes, outlined and discussed below.

- No changes to fee amounts in the law or rules have been made; the implementation of fee amounts have been aligned with the regulations.
- All fees must be paid at the time a form is submitted for it to be accepted and considered complete.
- One merged notification form will allow more than one project location to be submitted at a time.
- New software to submit online notification forms in Ohio EPA’s eBusiness Center coming Jan. 5, 2018.
- All other forms may be submitted through Ohio EPA’s eBusiness Center beginning in summer 2018.
- Any hard copy forms must be sent to Ohio EPA’s Central Office (address below).
- Combined inspections will be conducted to assess compliance with the merged asbestos program.
- Ohio EPA will have the authority to suspend and revoke licenses.

Rules
The rules governing asbestos hazard abatement contractors, specialists, project designers, workers, training courses and other professionals currently regulated by ODH in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3701-34 will be adopted by Ohio EPA under OAC Chapter 3745-22 on Jan. 1, 2018. Ohio EPA’s rules based on the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) will remain in OAC Chapter 3745-20. Several definitions in the licensing rules were changed to align with Ohio EPA’s regulations. The requirements that determine if a 10-day prior notification must be submitted to the Agency remain the same for both programs.

Centralized Program and Oversight
Ohio EPA’s Division of Air Pollution Control in the Central Office will receive and process all forms submitted by the regulated community. Division staff also will conduct completeness reviews and issue all certifications, licenses and approvals. The Compliance and Enforcement section will conduct project notification review and oversee the inspection program.

All hard copy forms, with corresponding checks postmarked after Dec. 21, 2017, must be delivered to:

Asbestos Program
OHIO EPA, DAPC
P.O. Box 1049
Columbus, OH 43216-1049

OR

Asbestos Program
Ohio EPA, DAPC
50 W. Town St., Suite 700
Columbus, OH 43215
Asbestos Program Transition from the Ohio Department of Health

**10-Day Prior Notification**
A single combined form will be used for all building demolition and asbestos abatement projects that require 10-day advance notice, provided they are in the same county, for the same owner and use the same contractors. To take advantage of this convenience, all the required information about the site(s) must be known at the time the form is submitted. The form may be completed and submitted online or mailed in hard copy. Revisions to notification forms will continue to be required as project information changes.

**IMPORTANT:** All fees associated with the identified projects must be paid when the initial notification form is submitted and before the 10-day prior notification and associated projects may begin. A customer will only be sent an invoice or fees refunded if there is a difference in the total fee amount once all projects on the notification form are completed.

**Fees**
The fee structure in the Ohio Revised Code has not changed. Instead, the implementation of fee applicability has been aligned with what is currently allowed in the law and rule language. There are two areas where customers may notice a difference in the amount due: 1) notification of a demolition project with no asbestos present will be charged the $75 NESHAP notification fee; and 2) if more than one project is included on a notification form, thus considered an installation, the NESHAP notification fee will only be charged one time per form. All other fees pertaining to the amount of asbestos abated or removed, or the $65 licensing notification fee, has not changed. As discussed above the fees will be due at the time a form is submitted.

**Submit All Forms and Pay Fees Online**
Ohio EPA is developing new software that will allow customers to submit all applicable forms online. The software will be implemented in two phases: 1) Notification forms on Jan. 5, 2018; and, 2) Licenses, Certifications and Course Management in summer 2018. For all online forms, the software will calculate applicable fees based on information provided in the form. Associated fees must be paid via credit card or electronic check.

**Note:** The ODH online abatement project notification system will be turned off on Jan. 3, 2018, to migrate all data to Ohio EPA. All other components of the ODH online system will remain active until the second phase of the new software is made available.

**Inspections, Compliance and Enforcement**
Ohio EPA's Central Office, district and local air agency staff will provide compliance assistance to customers. All asbestos-related guidance documents are being evaluated to ensure consistency between the two programs.

Ohio EPA district office and local air agency staff will conduct inspections within their jurisdiction for both the NESHAP and licensing rules. The district and local air agency staff currently conduct NESHAP inspections and are being trained on the licensing rules. The inspectors will complete abatement supervisor training and hold the abatement specialist license and the evaluation specialist license.

With the merger of the programs, the Ohio EPA director will have the authority to suspend and revoke licenses for individuals who fail to comply with the licensing rules and/or NESHAPs. This includes the failure to pay asbestos fees as outlined in the revised code.

**Timeline**
- Send hard copy forms with checks to Ohio EPA Central Office: Postmarked after Dec. 21, 2017
- Ohio EPA begins all regulation of asbestos program: Jan. 1, 2018
- ODH turns off online asbestos notification submission: Jan. 3, 2018
- New merged notification form available on Ohio EPA eBusiness Center: Jan. 5, 2018
- All remaining asbestos forms available through eBusiness Center: Summer 2018

**Contact**
For news concerning the merger, including upcoming webinars, go to [epa.ohio.gov/asbestos](http://epa.ohio.gov/asbestos). For more information, contact asbestos@epa.ohio.gov or call (614) 466-0061.
ANTI-HARASSMENT POLICY

There is no room for harassment on the job site. If you feel that this might be occurring on your job site, then check this website out by either visiting the link below or scanning the QR Code with your device. If you have questions and want to know more about what harassment could be then check out the web site by visiting the website.

https://portal.liunatraining.org/antiharassment/

COLD STRESS

Cold Stress Can be Prevented

It is important for employers to know the wind chill temperature so that they can gauge workers’ exposure risk better and plan how to safely do the work. It is also important to monitor workers’ physical condition during tasks, especially new workers who may not be used to working in the cold, or workers returning after spending some time away from work.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Weather Radio is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information from the nearest NWS office. It will give information when wind chill conditions reach critical thresholds. A Wind Chill Warning is issued when wind chill temperatures are life threatening. A Wind Chill Advisory is issued when wind chill temperatures are potentially hazardous.

Who is affected by environmental cold?

Environmental cold can affect any worker exposed to cold air temperatures and puts workers at risk of cold stress. As wind speed increases, it causes the cold air temperature to feel even colder, increasing the risk of cold stress to exposed workers, especially those working outdoors, such as recreational workers, snow cleanup crews, construction workers, police officers and firefighters. Other workers who may be affected by exposure to environmental cold conditions include those in transit, baggage handlers, water transportation, landscaping services, and support activities for oil and gas operations.

Risk factors for cold stress include:

- Wetness/dampness, dressing improperly, and exhaustion
- Predisposing health conditions such as hypertension, hypothyroidism, and diabetes
- Poor physical conditioning

What is cold stress?

What constitutes cold stress and its effects can vary across different areas of the country. In regions that are not used to winter weather, near freezing temperatures are considered factors for "cold stress." Increased wind speed also causes heat to leave the body more rapidly (wind chill effect). Wetness or dampness, even from body sweat, also facilitates heat loss from the body. Cold stress occurs by driving down the skin temperature, and eventually the internal body temperature. When the body is unable to warm itself, serious cold-related illnesses and injuries may occur, and permanent tissue damage and death may result. Types of cold stress include: trench foot, frostbite, and hypothermia.

For more information, see OSHA’s Cold Stress Safety and Health Guide.
How can cold stress be prevented?

Although OSHA does not have a specific standard that covers working in cold environments, under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSH Act) of 1970, employers have a duty to protect workers from recognized hazards, including cold stress hazards, that are causing or likely to cause death or serious physical harm in the workplace.

Employers should train workers. Training should include:
- How to recognize the environmental and workplace conditions that can lead to cold stress.
- The symptoms of cold stress, how to prevent cold stress, and what to do to help those who are affected.
- How to select proper clothing for cold, wet, and windy conditions.

Employers should:
- Monitor workers physical condition.
- Schedule frequent short breaks in warm dry areas, to allow the body to warm up.
- Schedule work during the warmest part of the day.
- Use the buddy system (work in pairs).
- Provide warm, sweet beverages. Avoid drinks with alcohol.
- Provide engineering controls such as radiant heaters.

Types of Cold Stress

Immersion/Trench Foot

Trench foot is a non-freezing injury of the feet caused by prolonged exposure to wet and cold conditions. It can occur in temperatures as high as 60°F if feet are constantly wet. Injury occurs because wet feet lose heat 25-times faster than dry feet.

What are they symptoms of trench foot?

Reddening skin, tingling, pain, swelling, leg cramps, numbness, and blisters.

First Aid

Call 911 immediately in an emergency; otherwise seek medical assistance as soon as possible.
Remove wet shoes/boots and wet socks.
Dry the feet and avoid working on them.
Keep affected feet elevated and avoid walking. Get medical attention.

Frostbite

Frostbite is caused by the freezing of the skin and tissues. Frostbite can cause permanent damage to the body, and in severe cases can lead to amputation. The risk of frostbite is increased in people with reduced blood circulation and among people who are not dressed properly for extremely cold temperatures.

What are the symptoms of frostbite?

Reddened skin develops gray/white patches in the fingers, toes, nose, or ear lobes; tingling, aching, a loss of feeling, firm/hard, and blisters may occur in the affected areas.

First Aid

Follow the recommendations described below for hypothermia.

Protect the frostbitten area, e.g., by wrapping loosely in a dry cloth and protect the area from contact until medical help arrives.
DO NOT rub the affected area, because rubbing causes damage to the skin and tissue.
Do not apply snow or water. Do not break blisters.
DO NOT try to re-warm the frostbitten area before getting medical help, for example, do not use heating pads or place in warm water. If a frostbitten area is rewarmed and gets frozen again, more tissue damage will occur. It is safer for the frostbitten area to be rewarmed by medical professionals.
Give warm sweetened drinks if alert (no alcohol).
Hypothermia

Hypothermia occurs when the normal body temperature (98.6°F) drops to less than 95°F. Exposure to cold temperatures causes the body to lose heat faster than it can be produced. Prolonged exposure to cold will eventually use up the body’s stored energy. The result is hypothermia, or abnormally low body temperature. Hypothermia is most likely at very cold temperatures, but it can occur even at cool temperatures (above 40°F) if a person becomes chilled from rain, sweat, or immersion in cold water.

What are the symptoms of hypothermia?

An important mild symptom of hypothermia is uncontrollable shivering, which should not be ignored. Although shivering indicates that the body is losing heat, it also helps the body to rewarm itself. Moderate to severe symptoms of hypothermia are loss of coordination, confusion, slurred speech, heart rate/breathing slow, unconsciousness and possibly death. Body temperature that is too low affects the brain, making the victim unable to think clearly or move well. This makes hypothermia particularly dangerous because a person may not know what is happening and won’t be able to do anything about it.

First Aid

Call 911 immediately in an emergency:
Move the worker to a warm, dry area.
Remove any wet clothing and replace with dry clothing. Wrap the entire body (including the head and neck) in layers of blankets; and with a vapor barrier (e.g. tarp, garbage bag) Do not cover the face.
If medical help is more than 30 minutes away:
Give warm sweetened drinks if alert (no alcohol), to help increase the body temperature. Never try to give a drink to an unconscious person.
Place warm bottles or hot packs in armpits, sides of chest, and groin. Call 911 for additional rewarming instructions.

Basic Life Support (when necessary)

Co-workers trained in cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) may help a person suffering from hypothermia that has no pulse or is not breathing:

Call 911 for emergency medical assistance immediately.
Treat the worker as per instructions for hypothermia, but be very careful and do not try to give an unconscious person fluids.
Check him/her for signs of breathing and for a pulse. Check for 60 seconds.
If after 60 seconds the affected worker is not breathing and does not have a pulse, trained workers may start rescue breaths for 3 minutes.
Recheck for breathing and pulse, check for 60 seconds.
If the worker is still not breathing and has no pulse, continue rescue breathing.
Only start chest compressions per the direction of the 911 operator or emergency medical services.
Reassess patient’s physical status periodically.
Chest compression are recommended only if the patient will not receive medical care within 3 hours.

Wind Chill Temperature: A Guide for Employers

Outdoor workers exposed to cold and windy conditions are at risk of cold stress, both air temperature and wind speed affect how cold they feel. Wind Chill is the term used to describe the rate of heat loss from the human body, resulting from the combined effect of low air temperature, and wind speed. The Wind Chill Temperature is a single value that takes both air temperature, and wind speed into account. For example, when the air temperature is 40°F, and the wind speed is 35mph, the wind chill temperature is 28°F; this measurement is the actual effect of the environmental cold on the exposed skin.

National Weather Service (NWS) Wind Chill Calculator: With this tool, one may input the air temperature and wind speed, and it will calculate the wind chill temperature.

The American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH) developed the following Work/Warm-up Schedule for a 4-hour shift takes both air temperature and wind speed into account, to provide recommendations
Know Your Winter Weather Terms

Blizzard Warning: Issued for sustained or gusty winds of 35 mph or more, and falling or blowing snow creating visibilities at or below 1/4 mile; these conditions should persist for at least 3 hours.

Wind Chill Advisory: Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be a significant inconvenience to life with prolonged exposure, and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to hazardous exposure.

Wind Chill Warning: Issued when wind chill temperatures are expected to be hazardous to life within several minutes of exposure.

Winter Storm Warning: Issued when hazardous winter weather in the form of heavy snow, blizzard conditions, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet is imminent or occurring. Winter Storm Warnings are usually issued 12 to 24 hours before the event is expected to begin.

Winter Storm Watch: Alerts the public to the possibility of a blizzard, heavy snow, heavy freezing rain, or heavy sleet. Winter Storm watches are usually issued 12 to 48 hours before the beginning of a Winter Storm.

Winter Weather Advisories: Issued for accumulations of snow, freezing rain, freezing drizzle, and sleet which will cause significant inconveniences and, if caution is not exercised, could lead to life threatening situations.

(From: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA))

For more information, visit https://www.osha.gov/dts/weather/winter_weather/windchill.html
The Ohio Laborers’ Training and Apprentice Trust Fund is pleased to announce the expansion and renovation of the dormitory and kitchen/dining areas of the Training Center is done. With the additional kitchen/dining space and 40 beds, the Training Center is now over 60,000 square feet and can accommodate more than 100 Laborers overnight. The work being done to expand the dorm and kitchen are the first major additions to the facility in its 40-year history.

The September unveilings are phase two and three of an overall multi-phase renovation. At the completion of these renovations, the Training Center’s capabilities of developing the skills of Ohio Laborers will undoubtedly improve. Bob Chatterson, Executive Director of the Training Center says about the projects, “we are always striving to make the experience here better and more convenient for our Laborers. We have seen an increase in attendance for our various training courses.” He continues, “We are proud of the renovations that are going on, and we want our members to be proud as well.”

For those who are not familiar, the Drexel J. Thrash Training Center sits on 119 acres of scenic ground located on U.S. 36, 12 miles east of Mount Vernon between Howard and Millwood. The Training Center offers a full training schedule from mid-September through mid-May, with classes offered on an as-needed basis through the summer. Nearly all training can be performed indoors during times of inclement weather. Some of the numerous trainings offered at the center are: B1 mason tending, gas pipeline, C2 traffic control, concrete placement, and the “A” series which are basic line and grade classes. The Training Center provides the crucial training necessary to supply contractors with qualified Laborers who have completed hands-on training with experienced staff. The best part about the training... it’s FREE for Ohio Laborers, so you can increase your skills and employability at no cost.
NEW HIRES

NICK SANTORO
INSTRUCTOR

TONY STRASSELL
INSTRUCTOR

VICKI CATALINE
INSTRUCTOR

JILL BURSON
SCHEDULING

SAVONNA HESS
HOUSEKEEPING

HARVEY JORDAN
INSTRUCTOR

CHAD LEWIS
INSTRUCTOR
Let’s all agree that the political climate in the country today is toxic and polarizing enough to ruin any family holiday. So, why bring it up? I bring it up because as union members we don’t have the luxury of not caring or not being involved. It was a progressive Republican from New York named Robert Wagner that got the Nation Labor Relations Act to pass back in 1935 securing Union Labor’s place in the workforce. He got his seat in government only because many working men and women voted him into office to fight for their rights. Had our predecessors been fed up with politics at that time and decided not to exercise their right to vote then, we might not be here today. Not as a union anyway. We might still be here building the infrastructure in Ohio but, we’d be doing it for a lot less money, no pension and lousy benefits. (If any at all) That sounds terrible to me.

If you are turned off by politics I empathize. However, dropping out of the political process is not an option if you enjoy the life your union wages have afforded you and your family. Generations before us did the hard work of establishing the union, paid too often with their own blood. We have the much easier work of simply voting to preserve it. There have been numerous anti-worker bills floated in the senate house in the last decade and there will be many more to come. It is paramount that we have union-friendly politicians representing us in Columbus as well as Washington D.C.

If you feel that politicians have left you behind or don’t represent you, ask yourself how consistently have you voted or contacted your representatives to let you know your positions? Yes’ that is something that you can do. The ALF-CIO has made it very easy for us. Even if you don’t know who your Rep’s are. You can simply text your 5 digit zip code to 520-200-2223 and the AFL-CIO will text you back with the names and contact numbers of your state and federal Rep’s. Call these lawmakers and remind them that they work for you! Let them know that if they choose not to legislate in favor of the working class we will gladly replace them at election time. Union busting special interest groups talk to your representatives daily. How often do you talk to them? We need for them to hear your voice and hear it often. The time to act is now. If we choose to do nothing, we will end up with nothing.