July 11, 2016

Cal/OSHA to Adopt Federal Silica Standard

On August 18, Cal/OSHA will hold a public hearing in Walnut Creek to hear comments on its intention to adopt the federal silica standard released in March of this year.

The federal final rule is written as two standards, one for construction, and one for general industry and maritime. The regulation lowers the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for crystalline silica from 250 micrograms per cubic meter of air to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air (.05 mg/m^3), averaged over an eight-hour shift. It also requires employers to use engineering controls and work practices to limit worker exposure, provide respiratory protection when controls do not limit exposures to the PEL, limit access to high exposure areas, train workers, and provide medical exams to highly exposed workers.

So, here's the rub: California's current PEL is 100 micrograms per cubic meter of air (0.1 mg/m^3). The new federal standard of 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air (.05 mg/m^3) is 50% of the current California standard!

Read More - Read DIR's Notice

Southern California Changes Min. Wage and Paid Sick Leave in Four Local Areas

July will bring significant changes to Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Monica employers in 2016. Los Angeles leads the charge with a
minimum wage increase from $10/hour to $10.50/hour and a paid sick leave increase from 24 hours (3 days) to 48 hours (6 days) effective July 1, 2016. Moreover, Los Angeles increases sick leave benefits above and beyond the State of California minimums in a couple of significant ways.

Read more

MCAC Members Influence Change on TMS Definition of Pilaster

MCAC "FEATURES" Members Doing Extraordinary Things: This month we have a whole host of people doing good work on behalf of the masonry industry.

The result of that good work is that the TMS 402 definition of pilaster has been changed so that clear flush pilasters are allowed and the requirements for pilasters have been changed to address flush pilasters. See the changes on the TMS ballot.

Thank you to all who had a hand in making this possible: See the list here.

California masonry code and industry are being well-represented with the help of California contractors getting involved. Nice work!

TIP: Do You Know What Version of the Code Your State is Using?

Keeping up with the states' code adoption can be a challenge. The International Code Council (ICC) has come up with a tool to make the task less daunting. Click here for a map to assist in finding what codes are being used in any state.

Enforcement of Electronic Certified Payroll Reports to DIR Resumes in August

DIR really wants to make sure contractors and subcontractors are aware of their Certified Payroll Reporting (CPR) requirements and has issued a third reminder on the subject. This latest notice advises that enforcement of the requirement to submit certified payroll records using DIR's online system (eCPR) will resume in August.

If you recall, DIR issued its first notice on January 21, 2016 temporarily suspending enforcement of online reporting due to system upgrades being undertaken. The second notice came March 15, 2016 reminding public works contractors that certified payroll reporting requirements were still in effect and encouraging use of the eCPR system while it was undergoing updates.

This most recent notice from May 19, 2016 assures us that the eCPR system is fully functional and the upgrades to simplify online reporting will be completed in August and enforcement of online reporting will, once again, be the law of the land.

Get Up To Date On Prevailing Wage At the Sacramento Regional Builders Exchange on July 20th, 2016

Join Cook Brown Partner Carrie Bushman from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm for an overview and update of
California's prevailing wage laws. She'll review what types of work, projects, and workers are covered, including the new ready mix hauling requirements. Attendees will learn how to read and interpret prevailing wage determinations, including scopes of work, and travel and subsistence provisions. The class will also focus on public works contractor registration requirements; apprenticeship compliance; record keeping requirements, including eCPR; and, new skilled and trained workforce requirements on certain jobs.

**REGISTER**

**Plan to Attend the MCAC 158th State Meeting in Monterey, CA September 23-24, 2016**

The [MCAC 158th MCAC State Meeting](#) will be held September 23-24, 2016 in Monterey, CA. Stay with us at the Monterey Plaza Hotel famous for it's location on Cannery Row with dramatic beach front views of the bay. Reservations are open by contacting the hotel directly. [Click the following for hotel details.](#) Monterey Plaza Hotel

Inland View - $259/night  
Toll-free reservation line (844) 508-5578

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