

Health & Safety

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AESF OSHA Safety & Compliance Course

During the 1998 AESF/EPA Pollution Prevention & Control Conference, the AESF OSHA Committee introduced its new OSHA Safety and Compliance Course. The results of the evaluations are in, and the course received glowing remarks from attendees. In fact, the course earned nearly a perfect "10." Many of the attendees had prior experience in the health and safety field. The course contains modules covering the following areas:

OSHA Hazard Assessments In the Workplace This module examines standards that use hazard evaluation and assessments to eliminate or control hazards. A few of the most obvious hazards in a finishing shop include:

- Exposure to bloodborne pathogens
- Restricted access to eyewash and showers
- Confined spaces
- Misuse of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Unsafe handling of chemicals
- Lack of adequate control of
- hazardous energyLack of protection from
- Lack of protection from falls
- Heat stress
- Slippery surfaces

OSHA Training Requirements Training and documentation is required under many standards. Some of these addressed are:

- Emergency response/fire plans
- Powered platform operation
- Hearing conservation
- Storage and handling of liquefied petroleum gases
- Storage and handling of anhydrous ammonia
- Process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals
- Hazardous waste operations and emergency response
- Personal protective equipment use
- Respirator use
- Permit-required confined space entry
- Lockout/tagout procedures
- Medical services and first aid
- Fire brigade activities
- Fire extinguisher use
- Powered industrial truck operations
- Welding, cutting and brazing
- Electrical work practices
- Vinyl chloride, inorganic arsenic, lead
- Bloodborne pathogens

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- Hazardous chemical exposure in laboratories
- Cadmium
- Formaldehyde

Recordkeeping Work-related Injuries and Illnesses Requirements concerning the completion and posting of OSHA 101, 200 and proposed changes to reporting forms are discussed in this module, as well as how to classify injuries vs. illnesses.

First Aid & Medical Surveillance Employee access to medical records and employer responsibility for testing and record maintenance is among the topics covered here.

Laboratory Safety Standards If an in-house lab creates or produces a process solution used outside of the in-house lab, then the lab falls under this standard. Dedicated OC labs do not fall under this standard. If, however, those QC labs also monitor environmental emissions (air, wastewater quality), then this standard applies. By now the reader is probably a bit upset. For years you've been told that if you have a QC lab, it doesn't fall under this standard. Unfortunately, many labs stray from the strict definition and unknowingly fall into this standard.

Fall Protection

Falls are the fourth leading cause of occupational deaths. Areas in a plating shop that should be of fall concern are chemical storage, wet process lines, wastewater treatment, roof, shipping and receving, and the lunchroom. Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals A company that uses a listed chemical in excess of the listed TQ threshold must comply with this extensive standard.

Control of Hazardous Energy Energy-isolating devices and their control (lockout/tagout) are covered in this section.

Use & Selection of Personal Protective Equipment Personal protective equipment (PPE) standard is a performance-based standard. This extensive module covers the decision to use PPE and subsequent use, care, inspection and training of PPE.

Permit-required Confined Spaces in the Workplace Chances are pretty good that all facilities have confined spaces of one kind or another. If such spaces exist, then one must have this written program in place—whether employees enter the spaces or not.

Hazard Communication OSHA's number-one money-maker in terms of annual fines is the HazCom standard. This module covers the basics of complying with hazard communication.

Prevention of Heat Stress In the Workplace This subject was taken from the OSHA Technical Guidance Manual and provides technical education on heat stress. The use of engineering controls, methods to reduce heat stress and emergency treatments of heat stress are also covered in this module.

Bloodborne Pathogens This standard was designed to cover workers exposed to hepatitis B virus, human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and other potentially infectious materials. Janitors, maintenance personnel and emergency response personnel could reasonably be expected to come in contact with a blood-contaminated object.

Who Should Take This Course? This course is excellent for those environmental health and safety (EHS) professionals who are new to many of the subjects presented. It also serves as a good review for seasoned professionals and good training for supervisors. Classroom study materials are well organized in easy-to-use reference notebooks that attendees can take back to the workplace.

All modules cover the regulation, and then apply it to the surface finishing industry. The instructors for the course are industry professionals with recognized credentials in the health and safety field. Instructors relate real-life experiences concerning the subjects and can be available for individual consultation following the sessions.

Future plans for the course include offering it in various cities several times each year. The course is also designed for the in-plant training setting, in order to help satisfy a facility's OSHA training requirements. As regulations change, the AESF OSHA Committee will update the modules. P&SF