

## Summary: Provisions of the OSHA Lead Standard for General Industry<sup>1</sup> Triggered by Air Lead Levels

	Greater than or equal to 30µg/ m <sup>3</sup> <sup>2</sup>  (Action Level)	Greater than or equal to 50µg/ m <sup>3</sup>  Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)	Other
Compliance Methods:		A written compliance program must be implemented, and updated every six months.	
----- • Engineering Controls	-----	----- Technological controls must be used where feasible. Mechanical ventilation is a common way to control lead exposure.	----- Engineering controls must be implemented even if the reduction is not to below the PEL (50µg/ m <sup>3</sup> ).
----- • Work Practice Controls	-----	----- Separate change rooms, showers, hand-washing facilities, and lunch areas must be provided and employer must ensure that proper housekeeping is practiced. Employer must assure no eating, drinking, smoking, or applying cosmetics takes place in areas where air lead exposure is greater than 50µg/ m <sup>3</sup> and that wash-up takes place before eating, drinking, smoking, or applying cosmetics.	----- Work practice controls may be used in conjunction with engineering controls.
----- • Protective Work Clothing and Equipment	-----	----- Employer must assure that protective work clothing and equipment are not worn in eating areas or away from workplace.  Employer must provide at no cost and assure proper use of full body clothes that are laundered at least weekly (daily for exposure greater than 200µg/ m <sup>3</sup> ) and gloves, hats, shoes, and face shields or goggles that are cleaned and repaired by the company.	----- During initial air monitoring for employees performing certain tasks: - Where the possibility of skin or eye irritation exists. - Must warn person who cleans/launders contaminated laundry. - Must assure clothing is changed in changing areas only. - Must provide container for contaminated clothing. - No blowing down with compressed air.

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Compliance Methods (Cont.):  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Administrative Controls</li> </ul> -----  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Respirator Use</li> </ul>	Job rotation may be used.  -----	Job rotation may be used.  -----  Approved properly fitted respirators are required at employer's expense whenever air lead is at or above 50µg/ m <sup>3</sup> or when workplace controls do not reduce exposures to or below 50µg/ m <sup>3</sup> . Powered air-purifying respirators must be supplied upon request. A respiratory protection program per CFR <sup>3</sup> 1910.134 must be instituted.	-----  Upon employee's request.
Air Monitoring	Every six months until at least two consecutive measurements taken at least seven days apart are less than 30µg/ m <sup>3</sup> to prove compliance.	Every three months until at least two consecutive measurements taken at least seven days apart are less than 50µg/ m <sup>3</sup> to prove compliance.	<b>Initial Air Monitoring:</b> Monitor all areas expected to have lead exposure. Also when there is a change in personnel, production, process, or controls or if there is a new exposure source.
Employee Notification of Monitoring Results	All employees sampled must be notified in writing within five days of employer receiving results.	Written notification must include a plan of corrective action to reduce exposure.	All employees sampled must be notified in writing within five days of employer receiving results from lab.
Employee Training	Before assignment to job, then annually. Employer must assure employee participation.	Before assignment to job, then annually. Employer must assure employee participation.	Where lead exposure may cause eye or skin irritation. - Employees must be informed of the content of Appendices A and B of the OSHA Lead Standard (link at end of table) if exposed to lead at any level.

	<b>Greater than or equal to 30µg/ m<sup>3</sup></b> <b>(Action Level)</b>	<b>Greater than or equal to 50µg/ m<sup>3</sup></b> <b>Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL)</b>	<b>Other</b>
<p>Medical Surveillance:</p> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Blood Lead Monitoring (BLL<sup>4</sup>, ZPP<sup>5</sup>)</li> </ul> <p>-----</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medical Evaluation (medical history, physical exam, laboratory work)</li> </ul>	<p>Required at employer's expense when an employee is or may be exposed at or above 30µg/ m<sup>3</sup> for more than 30 days per year:</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Required anytime an employee is exposed at or above 30µg/ m<sup>3</sup> on any single day. If exposed more than 30 days per year, testing is required every two months for the first six months, then every six months.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Frequency is determined by results of Blood Lead Monitoring.</p> <p>- Evaluation is also needed before assignment to a job with exposure greater than or equal to 30µg/ m<sup>3</sup>.</p>	<p>Required at employer's expense when an employee is or may be exposed at or above 30µg/ m<sup>3</sup> for more than 30 days per year:</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Required anytime an employee is exposed at or above 30µg/ m<sup>3</sup> on any single day. If exposed more than 30 days per year, testing is required every two months for the first six months, then every six months.</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Frequency is determined by results of Blood Lead Monitoring.</p> <p>- Evaluation is also needed before assignment to a job with exposure greater than or equal to 30µg/ m<sup>3</sup>.</p>	<p>Frequency is also determined by the results of the Blood Lead Monitoring (below).</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Also, upon request if employee develops signs of lead poisoning, plans to have children, or has difficulty with a respirator. As deemed appropriate by physician if limitations have been placed on employee while performing work that has lead exposure.</p>

This summary has been adapted from the OSHA Lead Standards and information provided by the New Jersey and Utah Departments of Health. **It should not be considered a substitute for the complete OSHA Lead Standard for General Industry\* (29 CFR 1910.1025).**

Complete copies of the OSHA Lead Standards for General Industry can be found at [https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=10030](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10030) for general industry [https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show\\_document?p\\_table=STANDARDS&p\\_id=10641](https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=STANDARDS&p_id=10641) for construction, or contact the Wisconsin OSHA Regional Offices (directory is at <https://www.osha.gov/oshdir/wi.html>).

<sup>1</sup>General Industry includes all work except agriculture and any work involving construction, alteration, or repair, including painting and decorating where an employee might be exposed to lead.

<sup>2</sup>Micrograms lead per cubic meter of air

<sup>3</sup>Code of Federal Regulations

<sup>4</sup>Blood Lead Level

<sup>5</sup>Zinc Protoporphyrin Test



**Wisconsin Occupational Health Program**  
**Bureau of Environmental and Occupational Health**  
**Wisconsin Department of Health Services | Division of Public Health**  
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