

May 10, 2007

DIRECTIVE:	JOB CORPS PROGRAM INSTRUCTION NO. 06-29
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TO: ALL JOB CORPS NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS REGIONAL OFFICE STAFF
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER DIRECTORS
ALL JOB CORPS CENTER OPERATORS
ALL NATIONAL TRAINING AND SUPPORT CONTRACTORS
ALL OUTREACH, ADMISSIONS, AND CTS CONTRACTORS

FROM: ESTHER R. JOHNSON, Ed.D.
National Director
Office of Job Corps

SUBJECT: Occupational Exposure to Hexavalent Chromium Standard and Compliance Requirements (29 CFR 1910.1026)

1. Purpose. To inform Job Corps centers about the compliance requirements described in the new hexavalent chromium (Cr(VI)) standard, 29 CFR 1910.1026.
2. Background. On February 28, 2006, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued the hexavalent chromium standard, which establishes the permissible exposure limit (PEL) as an 8-hour time-weighted average (8-Hr TWA) of 5 micrograms per cubic meter ($5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). The standard also establishes an action level of 2.5 micrograms per cubic meter ($2.5\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Industrial exposures to Cr(VI) include pigments in dyes, paints, inks, and plastics; anti-corrosive agents in paints and other surface coatings; chrome plating; smelting ferro-chromium ore; and welding or cutting stainless steel or nonferrous chromium alloys.

The new standard requires employers (i.e., Job Corps centers) to perform initial air monitoring to determine employee (i.e., Job Corps student and staff) exposure levels and to provide medical monitoring to staff and students who are exposed or may be exposed to Cr(VI). Specific actions centers must take to comply with the standard are listed below under "Action."

OSHA-required initial air monitoring and other program elements were to have been implemented by November 27, 2006. Engineering controls required by the standard must be in place by May 31, 2010. If Job Corps centers can demonstrate that a task or process does not result in student/staff exposures above the PEL for 30 days or more per year (12 consecutive months), engineering controls and work practice controls to achieve the PEL do not apply to that process or task.

3. Action. All Job Corps centers are required to conduct initial exposure monitoring of students, staff, and instructors involved in the following trades within 30 days of the date of this Program Instruction:

- a. Construction—cement masonry, glazing, painting, and plumbing
- b. Mechanics and Repairers—collision repair and refinishing
- c. Precision Production—lithographic printing, machining, and welding¹

Centers shall perform air sampling using the sampling method described in Attachment A. Additional details about sampling can be found in Attachment B, Hexavalent Chromium—OSHA Method 215.

Centers shall arrange to have the air samples analyzed by a certified laboratory that is equipped to perform Cr(VI) sample analysis in accordance with OSHA Method 215. The following laboratories are currently performing OSHA Method 215 sample analysis:

- a. EMSL Analytical, Inc.,² <http://www.emsl.com/>, 107 Haddon Avenue, Westmont, NJ 08108. East Coast phone number (800) 220-3675, and West Coast phone number (888) 455-3675. Sample analysis will cost \$60 for a 5- to 10-day turnaround and \$120 for a 3-day turnaround. Sampling cassettes are \$1. Sampling pumps are included in the cost of sample analysis. Centers will bear the cost of shipping the equipment and samples to/from the center.
- b. DataChem Labs,² <http://www.datachemlabs.com/>, 4388 Glendale-Milford Road, Cincinnati, OH 45242, (800) 458-1493. Analysis will cost \$120 per sample for a 5-day turnaround. There is an additional cost for expedited sample analysis. There is also a Salt Lake City, UT location, (800) 356-9135, and a West Coast project manager, (800) 280-8071.

Centers shall implement the requirements of the Cr(VI) standard as described in the OSHA Small Entity Compliance Guide for Hexavalent Chromium Standards (Attachment C). Centers are required to do the following.

When exposures are below the PEL and action level. If initial air sampling indicates that student/staff exposures are below the PEL and action level for 8 hours, centers shall prepare a written exposure control program that includes:

- a. trade(s) or center function(s) represented by air sample results below the PEL;
- b. engineering controls in use to maintain exposures below the PEL and action level;
- c. personal protective equipment and clothing; and
- d. hazard communication.

¹Welding or cutting of stainless steel involves the greatest exposure to Cr(VI).

²Listing of EMSL Analytical, Inc., and DataChem Labs in this Program Instruction should not be considered an endorsement by the National Office of Job Corps. Use of these laboratories is suggested, not required.

In addition, when initial air sampling indicates that student/staff exposures are below the action level, and this finding is confirmed by additional air monitoring 7 days later, then centers can discontinue monitoring students/staff represented by those results. Centers are required to perform additional air sampling if there are changes in the production process, raw materials, equipment, personnel, work practices, or control practices, or if centers suspect that new or additional exposures have occurred.

When exposures meet or exceed the action level. If initial air sampling indicates that exposures meet or exceed the action level, centers are required to monitor exposures, at minimum, twice per year or every 6 months. Centers are also required to prepare an exposure control plan that addresses the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.1026, including the:

- a. establish a monitoring schedule;
- b. provide medical monitoring for exposed students/staff;
- c. demarcate regulated areas;
- d. implement engineering controls;
- e. provide personal protective equipment and clothing;
- f. provide hygiene areas and practices;
- g. establish housekeeping program and cleaning methods; and
- h. communicate hazards to students/staff.

When exposures exceed the PEL. If initial monitoring indicates that student/staff exposures exceed the PEL (i.e., the 8-Hr TWA), then centers are required to:

- a. prepare an exposure control plan as described in a–h above;
- b. conduct periodic air monitoring at least once a quarter, or every 3 months; and
- c. provide a written description of the corrective actions to be taken to reduce Cr(VI) concentration to or below the PEL.

Deadline for exposure control programs and air monitoring results. Centers shall submit their written Cr(VI) exposure control programs and initial air monitoring results to the National Office of Job Corps for review no later than August 1, 2007. Any required exposure control plans must be added to the center's occupational safety and health plan beginning in fiscal year (FY) 2008.

4. Expiration Date. Until superseded.

5. Inquiries. Inquiries should be directed to Marsha Fitzhugh at (202) 693-3099 or fitzhugh.marsha@dol.gov, or Kelley Clark at (202) 693-3089 or clark.kelley@dol.gov.

Attachments

A – Sampling Method

B – Hexavalent Chromium—OSHA Method 215

C – Small Entity Compliance Guide for Hexavalent Chromium Standards