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February 2009

NEWSletter

For all of your regulatory compliance needs

Why is it so Quiet Around Here?

Safety Controls is off to a roaring start with this new year, and with that I would like to extend my appreciation to our dedicated staff. SCT staff are putting the finishing touches on a Saint Gobain project in Louisiana and we have begun a long term staff augmentation project for Cameron Glass in Kalama Washington. Our dedicated employees are crisscrossing the country and showing the U.S.A. our versatility & skills as well as our commitment to keeping workers safe *everywhere*.



Of course, the office isn't completely empty (or truly quiet), we are busy advancing our technology and working on new and improved equipment to help us be at our very best here at home in Ohio.

In the next month SCT looks forward to rolling out major improvements to our Client Interactive website; we are about to launch a new integrated timekeeping system that promises to free our time from record-keeping to even greater focused attention on our clients.

Our Construction Management division is gearing up for a big project that promises to clearly establish us as a contender in the marketplace, not bad for a fairly new focus for us! Drug-Free Workplace is always busy with training and UDS testing; give us a call to find out about our upcoming training opportunities.

Speaking of opportunities, this time of year can be a "slow" time for many of our clients. This may be a good time to assure that all your employees are up-to-date on their safety training and that your safety manuals are correct for all your current processes. We can help with that too, just give us a call.

Keep warm, drive safely and as always I wish you Safe and Healthy days.

Gail



Spotlight on ...Coatings

Why Choose a NACE Inspector?

Any good coating project needs to start with a thorough assessment inspection. You, as the owner, need to know what you have to work with and what the best course of action would be to get the maximum life out of your coating project. How do you guard against a poor application?

The job title of coating inspector has been around for a long time. One way to weed out the want-to-be coating inspectors is to rely on the National Association of Corrosion Engineers' (NACE) Coating Inspector Training and Certification Program. This is a certification obtained by three weeks of rigorous training followed by successfully completing a peer review. Once a person has obtained their NACE Certification, you know you have a person that at least has been trained correctly. A big part of an inspection is knowing where to look.

A coating inspector's job is to monitor the contractor's work for adherence to the project specifications and the coating manufacturer's recommended procedures. Several forces can affect the outcome of an industrial coating project. Some of these variables are: proper surface preparation, proper storage of the unused coating, proper mixing of the coating, substrate surface temperature, wet film thickness, proper cure time, and much more. If even one of these items is very far off, the whole project can be a disaster.

A good NACE inspector, knows where to look for problems based on his previous experience. With full-time inspection, the problems that are found can be marked and re-checked before moving on to the next step. Specific issues can be followed throughout the project and a resolution can be found before the completion of that part of the project. The NACE Certified Coating Inspector should be the "eyes and ears" of the owner and should approach the project with the owner's best interest in mind.

Thanks to the Tank Team

Revised Guidelines for Drug Testing

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), recently issued a final notice of revisions to its Mandatory Guidelines for Federal Workplace Drug Testing Programs.

These guidelines outline the standardized procedures all Federal agencies conducting drug testing must follow. Private employers are not required to follow them; however, many choose to do so in order to stay on safe legal ground. Past court decisions have supported following them.

The guidelines require, among other things, having a Medical Review Officer (MRO) evaluate positive test results. They also identify the substances tested for and establish standards for certification of labs used in Federal drug-testing programs. Previously, the guidelines identified five substances tested for in Federal drug-testing programs: amphetamines, cannabinoids, cocaine, opiates and phencyclidine. The revisions incorporate tests for a broader range of illicit substances and establish new procedures for ensuring the reliability and accuracy of urine testing. In particular, they expand the use of enhanced versions of urinalysis to cover MDMA, or Ecstasy.

Drug-testing is one component of a comprehensive drug-free workplace program, which also includes a written policy, training for supervisors on signs and symptoms of substance abuse, education for employees about the dangers of substance abuse and some form of assistance or support for employees who may have problems with alcohol and other drugs.

US Dept. of Labor, Working Partners

November 2008



A Friendly Reminder about PPE

A near miss? Believe it or not, without personal protective equipment (PPE) this accident could have been much worse.

The employer is responsible to assess the work environment and provide PPE for all employees who may be at risk. PPE does not guarantee that incidents will not happen, but they will give you a fighting chance to walk away from work at the end of the day without catastrophic injury. Below, you will find a handy checklist of items to think about as you plan your PPE requirements on your next job.

Eyes—Checklist for PPE

Suggested Question	Typical Operations of Concern	Yes	No
Do your employees perform tasks, or work near employees who perform tasks, that might produce airborne dust or flying particles?	Sawing, cutting, drilling, sanding, grinding, hammering, chopping, abrasive blasting, punch press operations, etc.		
Do your employees handle, or work near employees who handle, hazardous liquid chemicals or encounter blood splashes?	Pouring, mixing, painting, cleaning, siphoning, dip tank operations, dental and health care services, etc.		
Are your employees' eyes exposed to other potential physical or chemical irritants?	Battery charging, installing fiberglass insulation, compressed air or gas operations, etc.		
Are your employees exposed to intense light or lasers?	Welding, cutting, laser operations, etc.		

Workplace Safety is Ageless The U.S. population is growing older. The most recent US census reports that those 50 years old and older represent approximately 28.6% of Ohio’s population, an estimated 3.25 million people. It naturally follows that Ohio’s work force would reflect this trend with an increased age of available workers.

Curious about the impact this trend would have on workplace safety and injury prevention, BWC commissioned a study to research the types of injuries more common to older workers. The outcome of this research revealed that the top 10 injuries were the same for both a group of workers age 50 and over and all age groups. Although the top 10 injuries were the same, the frequency of occurrence differed slightly with “Sprains to the lumbar region” ranking #1 for older workers and “Open wound, finger” ranking #1 for all age groups. In the #2 position were the opposite results. #2 for older workers were “Open wound, finger...” and “Sprains, lumbar region” #2 for all age groups. The subsequent data worked out much the same way. Although similar results it is important for the employer to be aware of the older workforce. Having information on types of injured older workers may experience and the causes for these injuries allows employers to make workplace safety adjustments to protect their workers—older and younger—as well as their bottom line.

Please refer to the chart below to see some helpful safety tips.

Thank You to OhioBWC.com “Protecting Older Workers”

OSHA 10 **Class Openings!!** **OSHA 10**
Register Now for Friday February 20th
Please Contact Carla Dretzel to Reserve Space Today.....216-587-3000

Course Offerings

For class schedules contact Safety Controls at 1-800-204-1729

- ◆ OSHA 10 Hour
- ◆ Lead Supervisor
- ◆ OSHA 16 Hour
- ◆ Hazard Communications
- ◆ OSHA 30 Hour
- ◆ First Aid/CPR/AED
- ◆ Fall Protection Competent Person
- ◆ Confined Space Competent Person
- ◆ Scaffolding Erector/Dismantler
- ◆ ATSSA Flagger Training
- ◆ Scaffolding Competent Person
- ◆ Drug-Free Workplace Employee Training
- ◆ Lead Worker
- ◆ Drug-Free Workplace Supervisor Training
- ◆ Lead Worker Refresher
- ◆ Drug-Free Workplace Train the Trainer



Falls
 There are several possible reasons falls are more common among older workers. It could be a loss of balance or increased reaction time that comes with increasing age. It could be due to conditions resulting from the aging process, such as decreased flexibility. In addition, osteoporosis may increase the likelihood of sustaining an injury from a fall.

To guard against falls, make sure walkways and stairways are well lit, and ensure flooring and stairs are in good condition. Install hand rails in the stairways for additional support. Most falls occur on the top two or bottom two stairs.

Older populations have a decreased ability to distinguish depth perception, so if the stairs are all one color, it’s hard to see different steps. To give a boost to depth perception it may help to use color strips on the edge of each step.



Lighting
 Research shows that lighting is an area of concern for older workers. Ensuring adequate lighting and reducing glare with diffuse or indirect lighting will help workers to see clearly and consistently.

Older workers have difficulty transitioning between light and dark areas. Set-up work areas where you don’t have those transitions or make the transitions more gradual. Everything should be well lit, but if you need to have a darker work area, the transition should be gradual to provide more time for adjustment.



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Welcome Fred & Tanaja!
 Our work in Washington State has given us the opportunity to discover new talent we would not normally have the chance to interview. We have added two new staff members to our team.



Tanaja Gravina is helping us out as an administrative assistant.



Fred Caron, CSP is our onsite “Go To” guy for WISHA (Washington Industrial Safety & Health Act).

MEET SCT'S STAFF

Michael Bodnar	Tanaja Gravina (WA)	Louis Morganti, Jr.	Harold Schultz
Fred Caron	Gail Grueser	Nancy O'Keefe	Emanuel Sisamis
Vickie Cooper	Nick Guglielmo	Michael Olson	Joe Ventura
Carla Dretzel	Lee Jablonski	Andy Plavny, Jr.	Beth Wood
Rocco Fana, Jr.	Richard Lombardi	Annette Plavny	Dan Wood
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