



August 29, 2022

Doug Parker
Assistant Secretary
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Re: Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM) - Blood Lead Level for Medical Removal, Docket No. OSHA-2018-0004, RIN 1218-AD10

Dear Mr. Parker:

On behalf of the National Demolition Association (NDA), we respectfully submit the following comments regarding the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Advance Notice of Proposed Rule Making (ANPRM)-Blood Lead Level for Medical Removal published in the Federal Register on June 28, 2022.

NDA represents nearly 500 U.S. and Canadian companies that offer standard demolition services as well as a full range of demolition-related services and products. NDA educates members on the latest advances in equipment and services, provides educational programs and tools to stay abreast of regulatory and safety matters and keeps regulators informed about issues in our industry. NDA also increases public awareness of the economic and societal benefits of demolition.

According to information published by OSHA in the Federal Register, OSHA is considering a rulemaking to revise its standards for occupational exposure to lead based on medical findings since the issuance of OSHA's lead standards that adverse health effects in adults can occur at Blood Lead Levels (BLLs) lower than the medical removal level ($\geq 60 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in general industry, $\geq 50 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$ in construction) and lower than the level required under current standards for an employee to return to their former job status ($< 40 \mu\text{g}/\text{dL}$). The agency is seeking input on reducing the current BLL triggers in the medical surveillance and medical removal protection provisions of the general industry and construction standards for lead. The agency is also seeking input about how current ancillary provisions in the lead standards can be modified to reduce worker BLLs.¹

OSHA is asking the public to comment on key of the lead standards, including: (1) Blood lead level triggers for medical removal protection; (2) Medical surveillance provisions, including triggers and frequency of blood lead monitoring; (3) Permissible exposure limit; and (4) Ancillary provisions for personal protective equipment, housekeeping, hygiene and training.

¹ 87 FR 38343

NDA supports workplace regulations that effectively enhance employee health and safety. These regulations should remain practical and not impose undue burdens on demolition contractors and small businesses. As OSHA considers revisions to its standards for occupational exposure to lead, NDA recommends the following:

1. Maintain the existing Blood Lead Levels (BLLs) triggers in the medical surveillance and medical removal protection provisions of the construction standard for lead. NDA believes the BLLs trigger contained in the existing construction standard is sufficient to protect the health and safety of workers in the demolition industry.
2. Provide a summary table outlining operations and anticipated respiratory protection requirements on the basis of lead content in the substrate. A summary table - similar to Table 1 of the Respirable Crystalline Silica Standard² - would assist employers who may or may not have a background in industrial hygiene or industrial hygienists on staff to comply with OSHA's standard.
3. Clarify the wipe limit for housekeeping³ by codifying OSHA's 2003 Letter of Interpretation which states the Agency would not expect surfaces to be any cleaner than the 200-ug/ft² HUD level.⁴ NDA believes that defining the wipe limit within the standard would provide more clarity for employers.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment on this issue. For any questions, please contact NDA's Senior Legislative and Regulatory Coordinator Alex McIntyre at amcintyre@demolitionassociation.com.

Sincerely,



Jeff Lambert
Chief Executive Officer
National Demolition Association (NDA)

² 1926.1153

³ 1910.1025(h)

⁴ 1926.62(i)(4)(ii)