

Safety Meetings are important!

They: get your employees actively involved
encourage safety awareness
help identify problems before they become accidents
motivate employees to follow proper safety procedures

We are happy to provide you with a monthly topic for your agenda.

ROUTE TO:

- General Manager
- Safety Coordinator
- Supervisor Dept. _____
- Other _____
- Date of Meeting _____

March 2023

Bloodborne Pathogens and Other Potentially Infectious Materials



www.OSHA.gov

Did you know that if you compensate an employee for performing first aid then you must have a Bloodborne Pathogen Program?

The Bloodborne Pathogen and Other Potentially Infectious Material Standard (BBP Standard) covers many types of employees, from health care workers to first aid responders; employees that may have occupational exposure as part of their normal job responsibilities. OSHA defines occupational exposure as “reasonably anticipated contact with blood or other potentially infectious materials while performing their stated duties”

In our industry, the employees that may experience “occupational exposure” to BBP/OPIM is generally limited to first aid responders. First aid responders, those employees who are required to render first aid as part of their job function are covered by the BBP Standard. However, employees not designated as first aid responder but who voluntarily perform first aid are not subject to the BBP Standard since such actions do not constitute "occupational exposure (Also the liability for performing first aid by these “volunteer first aid responders” is covered under the "Good Samaritan" act).

OSHA’s Bloodborne Pathogen Standard requires employers prepare a written exposure control program in order to reduce or eliminate the hazards of occupational exposure to any bloodborne pathogens. And as we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, our cylinders can become vectors of infection and that is where we need to provide direction to employees for protecting themselves against BBP and OPIM.



OSHA recommends the written BBP program include:

- Employee Protection Measures
- Employee Training
- Medical Surveillance
- Engineering and Work Practice Controls
- Hepatitis B Vaccinations
- Personal Protective Equipment and other provisions as required by OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030).

The GAWDA Safety Committee has published proposed guidelines for the bloodborne pathogen program for welding distributors and fill plants - *including the attached pictogram!* The guideline may be found on the [GAWDA website/Members Only Document Page/ Sample Safety Practices / Bloodborne Pathogen Program.](#)

BLOOD BORNE PATHOGENS



***A WRITTEN PROGRAM AND DOCUMENTED
TRAINING CAN REDUCE YOUR RISK OF EXPOSURE***



PROTECT / ACT / CLEAN & DISPOSE



REFERENCES

[HTTPS://WWW.OSHA.GOV/BLOODBORNE-PATHOGENS](https://www.osha.gov/bloodborne-pathogens)
CGA PUBLICATION: P-83 GUIDELINES FOR CLEANING EXTERNALLY CONTAMINATED MEDICAL GAS CONTAINERS



Machine Guarding



Machine guarding isn't confined to machine presses and rollers, within our own facilities we have equipment that must be guarded. Some examples of equipment that should be guarded include: exhaust fans, safety stops for blasting machine doors, belt drives and grinding equipment.

Guards must :

- Protect against contact
- Guards must be secured to the machine
- Ensure that no object can fall into the moving parts
- Guards should not create additional hazards or interfere with machine performance.

In addition to mechanical guarding, grounding electrical equipment is one of the most important safety measures. Grounding should be applied to the entire system and each individual piece of electrical equipment.



Responsibility:

Department Managers and Supervisors must:

- Ensure operators do not remove or operate machine without machine safeguards.
- Ensure operators implement all safety program requirements.
- Provide machine/process specific hands-on training to all operators.

Every employee who operates machinery must:

- Be trained on and applies the use of machine safeguards
- Inspect the machines and safeguards prior to each use
- Always use safeguards as required
- Alert Owner Department Management when machines and/or safeguards need repair/replacement
- Assess work to determine if machine safeguards cannot be used and work with the supervisor to provide Administrative controls for safety.

Spring is a great time to check your machine guards and equipment grounding!

If you have any questions about either of these topics or any other OSHA, EPA or DHS questions please contact me.

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