



GENERAL INFORMATION BULLETIN

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February 13, 1981

FEDERAL LEVEL

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

Identification, Classification and Regulation of Potential Occupational Carcinogens Conforming Detentions - (Final Rule)

(Federal Register, January 19, 1981, pp. 4889-93, attached)

Proposed Amendments

(Federal Register, January 23, 1981, pp. 7402-8, attached)

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The Occupational Safety and Health Administration January 19 published revisions to its cancer policy designed to bring the standard into conformity with the Supreme Court's benzene decision.

On January 23 OSHA proposed additions to the language of the policy, incorporating the "significant risk" concept contained in the Court's July 1980 ruling.

The revisions announced Jan. 19, which are scheduled to take effect Feb. 18, delete references to reducing workplace carcinogen exposure "to the lowest feasible level." OSHA stated in the notice: "No automatic setting of exposures at the lowest feasible level will occur."

The rule also deleted sentences and phrases in the policy that could be interpreted as allowing the secretary of labor to take regulatory actions, including the issuance of emergency temporary standards for certain carcinogens, without considering whether a substance poses a "significant risk." Limitations on the evidence to be considered in setting exposure limits are deleted, freeing the secretary to consider data on the "gravity of danger" posed by an identified carcinogen, according to the notice.

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