STANDARDS PRESENTATION

CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD

TITLE 8: GENERAL INDUSTRY SAFETY ORDERS
(Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Section 5218

SECTION	SUBJECT
5218	Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs). (New) Establishes requirements for the control of employee exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls(PCBs). The new section addresses the following areas:
(a)	Scope and Application.
(b)	Definitions.
(c)	Permissible Exposure limits.
(d)	Engineering Controls.
(e)	Work Practices.
(f)	Protective Equipment and Clothing.
(g)	Respiratory Protection.
(h)	Employee Decontamination.
(i)	Training and Information.
(j)	Signs and Labels.
(k)	Medical Surveillance.

There are no building standards contained in this order.

Pursuant to Section 106, Chapter 1284, Statutes of 1974, the above order does not create any reimbursement by the State to any local agency under Section 2231 of the Revenue and Taxation Code for costs that may be incurred by it in complying with this order because this order merely implements Federal law and regulations.

CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD

Adopt new Section 5218 of the General Industry Safety Orders to read:

5218. Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

(a) Scope and Application.

(1) This Section establishes requirements for the control of employee exposure to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs).

(2) This Section does not apply to employees working with capacitors or ballasts containing less than 3 pounds of PCB fluid. Employers shall control PCB exposure of employees not covered by this Section in accordance with the requirements of General Industry Safety Order 5155.

(b) Definitions.

Authorized Employee. An employee who handles PCBs or cleans-up leaks or spills of PCBs, or who handles, installs, removes, repairs or transports equipment or storage devices containing PCBs.

PCBs. Polychlorinated Biphenyls. PCB and PCBs mean any chemical substance that is limited to the biphenyl molecule that has been substituted with one or more chlorine atoms, and any mixtures which contain such substance at or greater than 50 ppm (0.005%) by weight. (Chemical Abstracts Service Registry No. 1336-36-3).

NOTE: The following are synonyms for PCBs: chlorobiphenyl, chlorodiphenyl, chlorinated diphenyls, chlorinated biphenyls. The following are trade names for fluids which contain PCBs: Aroclor, Asbestol, Askarel, Apirolio, Clophen, Chlorextol, Chlorinol, Clorphen, Diaclor, Dk, Dykanol, EEC-18, Elemex, Eucarel, Fenclor, Hyvol, Inclor, Inerteen, Kaneclor, Kennechlor, Nepolin, No-Flamol, Phenoclor, Phyralene, Pydraul, Pyranol, Pyroclor, Saf-T-Kuhl, Santotherm FR, Santovac 1 and 2, Therminol.

MONS 061322

(c) Permissible Exposure Limits

(1) The employer shall assure that no employee is exposed to a concentration of airborne PCBs in excess of 0.5 mg/M^3 for 54% chlorine PCBs or 1 mg/M^3 for all other PCBs as an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA).

(2) The employer shall assure that no employee is exposed to a concentration of airborne PCBs in excess of 1 mg/M^3 for 54% chlorine PCBs or 2 mg/M^3 for all other PCBs at any time.

(3) The employer shall prevent eye or skin contact with PCBs.

(d) Engineering Controls.

Where feasible, engineering controls shall be used in accordance with General Industry Safety Order 5141 to maintain airborne PCB exposure at or below the permissible exposure limit.

(e) Work Practices.

(1) Any equipment containing insulating oil shall be presumed to contain PCBs unless tested or otherwise certified by a procedure acceptable to the Division.

(2) Safe Work Practice Document.

(A) Within 60 days of the effective date of this Section the employer shall develop and implement the requirements of a safe work practice document for each authorized employee.

(B) The written safe work practice document shall include:

1. Specific methods to prevent eye or skin contact with PCBs.

2. Specific methods to prevent employee exposure in excess of the permissible exposure limit for airborne PCBs.

3. Procedures for eye and skin decontamination.

4. Specific methods to limit areas of contamination.

(C) At least one copy of the safe work practice document shall be available at each work site.

(f) Protective Equipment and Clothing.

(1) The employer shall at no cost to the employee provide and ensure the use of protective equipment and clothing that protects the area of body which may come into contact with PCBs.

(2) The protective equipment and clothing used shall:

(A) Include chemical goggles for eye protection when required;

(B) Be chemically resistant for the given work operation;

(C) Prevent contact of PCBs with the employee's underlying clothes or body.

(3) The employer shall require that employees remove protective equipment or clothing which contacts PCBs before the underlying clothes or body becomes contaminated.

NOTE: Due to permeation by chemicals, protective equipment and clothing must be carefully selected for the given work operation and used with knowledge of its limitations. Guidelines may be obtained from Cal/OSHA Consultation Services.

(g) Respiratory Protection.

(1) Respiratory protection shall be used where feasible engineering and administrative controls fail to maintain

employee exposure to airborne PCBs at or below the permissible exposure limits.

(2) Appropriate selection, provision, and use of respiratory protective equipment shall be based on General Industry Safety Order 5144.

(h) Employee Decontamination.

(1) The employer shall provide in the immediate work environment of any authorized employee who may come into contact with PCBs, facilities and materials for decontamination sufficient to:

(A) Immediately wash the affected skin area of any employee who comes into contact with PCBs.

(B) Immediately flush the eyes with copious amounts of water if eyes come into contact with PCBs.

(2) The employer shall replace at no cost to the employee any employee work clothing or required employee equipment which cannot be satisfactorily decontaminated.

(i) Training and Information.

(1) General Information

(A) The employer shall provide information to employees who in the course of their job duties may come into contact with PCBs or equipment containing PCBs.

(B) The information shall include the hazards of PCBs, the general location and/or type of equipment containing PCBs, the procedure for recognizing and reporting spills or leaks, and the requirement to avoid contact.

(2) Training for Authorized Employees.

(A) A training program shall be instituted for all authorized employees and shall be provided within 60 days of the effective date of this Section or at the time of initial assignment.

(B) The program shall include a complete discussion of the safe work practice document, with explanations as to the purpose of the safe work practices, protective equipment, and clothing. In addition, the program shall include discussions on:

(1) The potential health effects of PCBs, including skin, eye, liver, and reproductive system injury and status as a suspect carcinogen.

(2) Routes of exposure, including skin penetration, inhalation, ingestion, and PCB transfer from mother to fetus and from mother to infant via mother's milk.

(3) Requirements and procedures for medical surveillance and maintenance of records as described in subsection (k).

(4) Employee rights by this standard.

(C) The employer shall provide training at least annually to each authorized employee.

(3) Information for Emergency Response Personnel.

The employer shall provide information to persons responding to an emergency involving any of the following items containing PCBs on the content and location of such

items: transformers, power distribution capacitors, power factor correction capacitors, heat transfer systems, transport or storage devices.

(4) All materials relating to the requirements of this subsection shall be made available on request to an authorized representative of the Division.

(j) Signs and Labels.

(1) Equipment or storage devices containing 50 ppm or greater of PCBs in liquid or oil form, except as specified in paragraph (2) below, or containers which are used to store or transport PCB contaminated items, shall be posted with a warning sign bearing the following information:

CAUTION: Contains PCBS

(Polychlorinated Biphenyls)

A toxic contaminant requiring special handling

The sign shall have black letters and striping on a white or yellow background and shall measure at least 6 inches on each side. For equipment or containers too small to accommodate a 6 by 6 inch sign, the size of the sign may be reduced to a minimum of 2 inches on each side.

NOTE: Federal regulations require the labeling of most items containing or contaminated with PCBs (Federal Register, Volume 44, Number 106, May 31, 1979).

(2) Utility transformers, regulators, switches, electrical protective devices, cables, and cable terminations that contain 500 ppm or greater of PCB fluid shall be posted with the warning sign required in paragraph (1) above.

NOTE: Utility equipment specified in paragraph (2) above containing less than 500 ppm PCB are not required to be labeled. Other types of equipment are subject to the requirements of paragraph (1) above. However, equipment containing insulating oil is assumed to contain 50 ppm or greater PCB unless tested or otherwise certified in accordance with paragraph (e)(1) of this Section.

(3) Contaminated areas where employees may contact PCBs, including but not limited to areas where equipment containing PCBs has leaked, spilled, or been serviced, or areas where employees are exposed to greater than the permissible exposure limit for airborne PCBs, shall be demarcated and posted with legible signs bearing the following legend:

CAUTION:

Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs)

Authorized Personnel Only

(k) Medical Surveillance

The employer shall obtain the services of a licensed physician familiar with the occupational hazards of PCBs to perform or supervise all required medical examinations in accordance with the requirements of this subsection.

(1) Content:

(A) The initial medical examination shall include a personal history of diseases of the skin, liver, and peripheral nervous system; and occupational history with emphasis on past exposures to PCBs; and a reproductive history.

(B) The follow-up medical examination shall include an interim history for symptoms referable to the skin, liver, and peripheral nervous system and an interim reproductive history.

(C) Both initial and follow-up medical examinations shall include physical examinations and assessments of the skin, liver, and peripheral nervous system, and laboratory examinations when considered necessary by the examining physician.

(2) Frequency:

(A) Employee(s), the regular purpose of whose job(s) is to transport, store, or otherwise handle PCBs or PCB-containing equipment and/or containers, shall be provided medical examinations within 30 days of initial assignment and annually thereafter. Within 90 days of the effective date of this standard, affected workers as defined above shall be provided initial medical examinations as described in paragraph (1) of this subsection.

(B) Any employee whose eyes or skin contacts PCBs or who is exposed to greater than the permissible exposure limit for airborne PCBs shall be provided initial medical examinations within 24 hours. Follow-up medical examinations shall be provided thereafter as determined by the physician.

NOTE: It is recommended that follow-up examinations be provided within six weeks of initial exposure.

(3) The entire cost of the medical surveillance program shall be borne by the employer.

(4) Medical examinations shall be offered at a reasonable time and place.

(5) Physician's Written Report.

(A) The employer shall obtain from the physician a written report interpreting the results, insofar as they concern occupational hazards from exposure to PCBs, of each medical examination. The report shall include recommendations, if required, of action to be taken by the employer for the protection of the employee's health, and the employer shall follow such recommendations.

(B) The employer shall instruct the physician not to reveal in the written opinion, or by any other means, specific findings or diagnoses unrelated to occupational exposure to PCBs.

(C) The physician's written report shall include a statement that the employee has been informed by the physician of the results of the medical examination and any medical conditions which require further explanation or treatment.

(D) The employer shall provide a copy of the physician's written report to the affected employee.

(6) The employer shall maintain and provide access to physician's written reports and medical records (see General Industry Safety Order 3204).

CALIFORNIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD

AUTHORITY CITED: Labor Code Section 142.3
Reference: Labor Code Section 142.3

There are no building standards contained in this order.

Pursuant to Section 106, Chapter 1284, Statutes of 1974, the above order does not create any reimbursement by the State to any local agency under Section 2231 of the Revenue and Taxation Code for costs that may be incurred by it in complying with this order because this order merely implements Federal law and regulations.

MCNS 061331