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April 21, 2003

Oregon OSHA Adopts Changes to Spray Finishing in General Industry

Oregon OSHA's goal is to have standards that are written in a manner that clearly conveys their intent. To that end, we have identified certain rules about which there is repeated confusion, and this rule was one of those identified.

Rules for spray finishing operations were first adopted in Oregon in 1975. In 1992, Oregon OSHA adopted a numbering system that mirrored the Federal OSHA numbering system and in many cases, adopted the Federal OSHA language as well. Part of this restructuring resulted in the spray finishing operations rule divided into two separate rules, OAR 437-002-1910.107, "Spray Finishing with Flammable and Combustible Liquids," and OAR 437-002-1910.94, "Ventilation," which covered spray finishing operations that do not involve flammable or combustible liquids. We also kept some Oregon specific rules that were not part of the Federal OSHA rules, and these were designated as OAR 437-002-0107.

In October 2002 we proposed adopting an Oregon initiated standard consolidating these components in one place which clearly states the requirements. A hearing was held on November 25, 2002. In response to comments we have also consulted with the Office of the State Fire Marshal and Oregon Building Codes Division to ensure consistency between rules.

Since the spray finishing rules are based on the fire hazards presented by spray finishing operations, Oregon OSHA recognizes that the Oregon State Fire Marshal's Office has more specific knowledge about fire hazards, and we have historically deferred to that office, or designee, in cases where a practice they allow conflicts with our rules for spray finishing. In this rewrite, language was added to allow for alternatives to certain requirements when the local fire authority allows an alternative in writing.

Language was added to clarify requirements for paint mixing rooms. These requirements were taken from OAR 437-002-1910.106, "Flammable and Combustible Liquids," Article 80 of the Uniform Fire Code, and NFPA 33-2000.

Oregon OSHA believes that this revised standard makes it easier and more likely for employers that engage in spray finishing operations to understand their obligations to make their businesses safe and healthful for their employees.

This is OR-OSHA Administrative Order 3-2003, **adopted and effective April 21, 2003.**

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