

**OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive A-8
Issued January 1, 1979
Revised January 14, 2013

SUBJECT: Polychlorinated Biphenyl (PCB) Exposures

AFFECTED STANDARDS/

DIRECTIVES: ORS 654.010; 437-001-0760 (1)(a); 1910.120, OAR 437-002-0134, 1910.134; 437-002-0123; 437-002-0127; 1910.1000; 1926.21; 1926.51; CPL 2-2.51; and CPL 2-2.59

PURPOSE: This directive outlines rules applicable to exposures to PCBs.

BACKGROUND: 1910.1000, Air Contaminants, has specific standards for airborne levels for two isomers of PCBs. These forms are chlorodiphenyl (42% and 54% chlorine). These are the more common compounds found as insulating liquids used in electrical capacitors and transformers. Other forms of PCBs, such as chlorodiphenyl (16%, 21%, 71% chlorine), can be found in heat transfer enclosures and in investment casting waxes in foundries.

ACTION: The following guidelines apply to enforcement actions relative to PCB exposures:

- A. Exposure to PCBs during investigations of uncontrolled hazardous waste sites and emergency response/ cleanup of non-incidentals spills should be addressed by the applicable sections of 1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.
- B. PCBs are covered by the Hazard Communication Standard 1910.1200 when handled in all other workplaces including hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities regulated by 40 CFR parts 264 and 265.
- C. Repeated skin contact hazards with all PCBs can be addressed by the general requirements for personal protective equipment in Div. 2-I, OAR 437-002-0134, 437-002-0123, 437-002-0127, 437-002-0137.
- D. Where contamination of food or eating facilities could occur the hazards are addressed by 1910.141(g) or 1926.51(d).
- E. Inadequate employee training programs are covered by 437-001-0760(1)(a) or 1926.21.

- F. ORS 654.010 and 1926.21 apply where the hazard would be recognized by a reasonable and diligent employer and specific health and safety standards do not apply. Such hazards may include:
1. Poor personal hygiene practices.
 2. Compounds other than those covered by specific standards.

**EFFECTIVE
DATE:**

This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.