July 2, 2013

To Parties Interested in Oregon OSHA’s Confined Space Rule:

Some time ago, Oregon OSHA adopted changes to the confined space rule (the most significant of which is its application to construction activities). Those changes were scheduled to take effect on the first of April; however, I previously delayed the enforcement of those provisions until September 1, 2013.

Based on the discussion at the last two Construction Advisory Committee meetings, as well as conversations both I and others have had with various stakeholders, I am issuing a further enforcement delay until December 1, 2013. Until that date, violations of the Confined Space rule will be cited only if the conditions would also have represented violations of the previous rule.

Conversations regarding the effects of the rule in certain contexts and within certain industries will continue as long as necessary. However, I expect the rule to be enforced in all industries beginning December 1, 2013, without any further delays.

Sincerely,

Michael Wood, CSP
Administrator, Oregon OSHA