



Federal Register

**Monday,
December 10, 2007**

Part XII

Department of Labor

Semiannual Regulatory Agenda

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (DOL)

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Office of the Secretary

20 CFR Chs. I, IV, V, VI, VII, and IX

29 CFR Subtitle A and Chs. II, IV, V, XVII, and XXV

30 CFR Ch. I

41 CFR Ch. 60

48 CFR Ch. 29

Semiannual Agenda of Regulations

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Labor.

ACTION: Semiannual regulatory agenda.

SUMMARY: This document sets forth the Department's semiannual agenda of regulations that have been selected for review or development during the coming year. The Department's agencies have carefully assessed their available resources and what they can accomplish in the next 12 months and have adjusted their agendas accordingly.

The agenda complies with the requirements of both Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act. The agenda lists all regulations that are expected to be under review or development between October 2007 and October 2008, as well as those completed during the past 6 months.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kathleen Franks, Director, Office of Regulatory Policy, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Policy, U.S. Department of Labor, 200 Constitution

Avenue NW., Room S-2312, Washington, DC 20210; (202) 693-5959.

NOTE: Information pertaining to a specific regulation can be obtained from the agency contact listed for that particular regulation.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Executive Order 12866 and the Regulatory Flexibility Act require the semiannual publication in the **Federal Register** of an agenda of regulations. As permitted by law, the Department of Labor is combining the publication of its agendas under the Regulatory Flexibility Act and Executive Order 12866.

Executive Order 12866 became effective September 30, 1993, and, in substance, requires the Department of Labor to publish an agenda listing all the regulations it expects to have under active consideration for promulgation, proposal, or review during the coming 1-year period. The focus of all departmental regulatory activity will be on the development of effective rules that advance the Department's goals and that are understandable and usable to the employers and employees in all affected workplaces.

For this edition of the Department's regulatory agenda, the most important significant regulatory actions and a Statement of Regulatory Priorities are included in The Regulatory Plan, which appears in both the online Unified Agenda and in part II of the **Federal Register** that includes the Unified Agenda.

In addition, beginning with the fall 2007 edition, the Internet will be the basic means for disseminating the Unified Agenda. The complete Unified Agenda will be available online at www.reginfo.gov, in a format that offers users a greatly enhanced ability to obtain information from the Agenda database.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act, which became effective on January 1, 1981, requires the Department of Labor to publish an agenda, listing all the regulations it expects to propose or promulgate that are likely to have a "significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities" (5 U.S.C. 602).

The Regulatory Flexibility Act (under section 610) also requires agencies to periodically review rules "which have or will have a significant economic impact upon a substantial number of small entities" and to annually publish a list of the rules that will be reviewed during the succeeding 12 months. The purpose of the review is to determine whether the rule should be continued without change, amended, or rescinded.

The next 12-month review list for the Department of Labor is provided below, and public comment is invited on the listing. A brief description of each rule, the legal basis for the rule, and the agency contact are provided with each agenda item.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

Lead in Construction (RIN 1218-AC18)

Methylene Chloride (RIN 1218-AC23)

Employee Benefits Security Administration

Plan Assets-Participant Contributions Regulations (RIN 1210-AB11)

All interested members of the public are invited and encouraged to let departmental officials know how our regulatory efforts can be improved, and, of course, to participate in and comment on the review or development of the regulations listed on the agenda.

Elaine L. Chao,
Secretary of Labor.

Employment Standards Administration—Long-Term Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
408	Labor Organization Annual Financial Reports	1215-AB62

DOL

Employee Benefits Security Administration—Prerule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
409	Plan Assets-Participant Contributions Regulation (Section 610 Review)	1210-AB11

Employee Benefits Security Administration—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
410	Proposed Revision of Annual Information Return/Reports	1210-AB14

Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Prerule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
411	Occupational Exposure to Crystalline Silica (Reg Plan Seq No. 107)	1218-AB70
412	Occupational Exposure to Beryllium	1218-AB76
413	Methylene Chloride (Section 610 Review)	1218-AC23

References in boldface appear in the Regulatory Plan in part II of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Proposed Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
414	Confined Spaces in Construction (Part 1926): Preventing Suffocation/Explosions in Confined Spaces	1218-AB47
415	Cranes and Derricks (Reg Plan Seq No. 108)	1218-AC01
416	Occupational Exposure to Diacetyl and Food Flavorings Containing Diacetyl	1218-AC33

References in boldface appear in the Regulatory Plan in part II of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Final Rule Stage

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
417	Electric Power Transmission and Distribution; Electrical Protective Equipment	1218-AB67

Occupational Safety and Health Administration—Completed Actions

Sequence Number	Title	Regulation Identifier Number
418	Lead in Construction (Completion of a Section 610 Review)	1218-AC18

Department of Labor (DOL)**Long-Term Actions****Employment Standards Administration (ESA)****408. • LABOR ORGANIZATION ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Legal Authority: 29 USC 431(b); 29 USC 438

Abstract: The Department of Labor's Employment Standards Administration proposes to establish standards and procedures by which the Office of Labor Management Standards, pursuant

to section 208 of the Labor Management Reporting and Disclosure Act (LMRDA), 29 U.S.C. 438, may revoke the privilege of a labor organization to file a simplified annual financial disclosure

Department of Labor (DOL)
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Prerule Stage

411. OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO CRYSTALLINE SILICA

Regulatory Plan: This entry is Seq. No. 107 in part II of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

RIN: 1218-AB70

412. OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO BERYLLIUM

Legal Authority: 29 USC 655(b); 29 USC 657

Abstract: In 1999 and 2001, OSHA was petitioned to issue an emergency temporary standard by the Paper Allied-Industrial, Chemical, and Energy Workers Union, Public Citizen Health Research Group and others. The Agency denied the petitions but stated its intent to begin data gathering to collect needed information on beryllium's toxicity, risks, and patterns of usage.

On November 26, 2002, OSHA published a Request for Information (RFI) (67 FR 70707) to solicit information pertinent to occupational exposure to beryllium including: current exposures to beryllium; the relationship between exposure to beryllium and the development of adverse health effects; exposure assessment and monitoring methods; exposure control methods; and medical

surveillance. In addition, the Agency conducted field surveys of selected work sites to assess current exposures and control methods being used to reduce employee exposures to beryllium. OSHA is planning to use this information to develop a proposed rule addressing occupational exposure to beryllium.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Request for Information	11/26/02	67 FR 70707
Complete SBREFA Report	01/00/08	

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: Yes

Agency Contact: Dorothy Dougherty, Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., FP Building, Room N3718, Washington, DC 20210
 Phone: 202 693-1950
 Fax: 202 693-1678
 Email: dougherty.dorothy@dol.gov

RIN: 1218-AB76

413. METHYLENE CHLORIDE (SECTION 610 REVIEW)

Legal Authority: 29 USC 655(b); 5 USC 553; 5 USC 610

Abstract: OSHA will undertake a review of the Methylene Chloride Standard (29 CFR 1910.1052) in accordance with the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and section 5 of Executive Order 12866. The review will consider the continued need for the rule; whether the rule overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal, State, or local regulations; and the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors may have changed since the rule was evaluated.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Begin Review	12/01/06	
Request for Comments	07/10/07	72 FR 37501
End Review	06/00/08	

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: No

Agency Contact: John Smith, Directorate of Evaluation and Analysis, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., FP Building, Room N 3641, Washington, DC 20210
 Phone: 202 693-2225
 Fax: 202 693-1641
 Email: smith.john@dol.gov

RIN: 1218-AC23

Department of Labor (DOL)
Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

Proposed Rule Stage

414. CONFINED SPACES IN CONSTRUCTION (PART 1926): PREVENTING SUFFOCATION/EXPLOSIONS IN CONFINED SPACES

Legal Authority: 29 USC 655(b); 40 USC 333

Abstract: In January 1993, OSHA issued a general industry rule to protect employees who enter confined spaces (29 CFR 1910.146). This standard does not apply to the construction industry because of differences in the nature of the worksite in the construction industry. In discussions with the United Steel Workers of America on a settlement agreement for the general industry standard, OSHA agreed to issue a proposed rule to extend confined-space protection to construction workers appropriate to their work environment.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
SBREFA Panel Report	11/24/03	
NPRM	11/00/07	

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: Yes

Agency Contact: Steven F. Witt, Director, Directorate of Construction, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., Room N-3467, FP Building, Washington, DC 20210
 Phone: 202 693-2020
 Fax: 202 693-1678

RIN: 1218-AB47

415. CRANES AND DERRICKS

Regulatory Plan: This entry is Seq. No. 108 in part II of this issue of the **Federal Register**.

RIN: 1218-AC01

416. • OCCUPATIONAL EXPOSURE TO DIACETYL AND FOOD FLAVORINGS CONTAINING DIACETYL

Legal Authority: 29 USC 655(b); 29 USC 657

Abstract: On July 26, 2006, the United Food and Commercial Workers International Union (UFCW) and the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) petitioned DOL for an Emergency Temporary Standard (ETS) for all employees exposed to diacetyl, a major component in artificial butter flavoring. Diacetyl and a number of other volatile organic compounds are used to

DOL—OSHA

Proposed Rule Stage

manufacture artificial butter food flavorings. These food flavorings are used by various food manufacturers in a multitude of food products including microwave popcorn, certain bakery goods, and some snack foods. OSHA denied the petition on September 25, 2007.

Evidence from NIOSH and other sources indicated that employee exposure to diacetyl and food flavorings containing diacetyl is associated with bronchiolitis obliterans, a debilitating and potentially fatal

disease of the small airways in the lung. Severe obstructive airway disease has been observed in the microwave popcorn industry and in food flavoring manufacturing plants. Experimental evidence has shown that inhalation exposure to artificial butter flavoring vapors and diacetyl damaged tissue lining, the nose, and airways of rats and mice.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Stakeholder Meeting	10/17/07	72 FR 54619
Initiate SBREFA	01/00/08	

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: Yes

Agency Contact: Dorothy Dougherty, Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., FP Building, Room N3718, Washington, DC 20210
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RIN: 1218-AC33

Department of Labor (DOL)

Final Rule Stage

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

417. ELECTRIC POWER TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION; ELECTRICAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Legal Authority: 29 USC 655(b); 40 USC 333

Abstract: Electrical hazards are a major cause of occupational death in the United States. The annual fatality rate for power line workers is about 50 deaths per 100,000 employees. The construction industry standard addressing the safety of these workers during the construction of electric power transmission and distribution lines is over 30 years old. OSHA has developed a revision of this standard that will prevent many of these fatalities, add flexibility to the standard, and update and streamline the standard. OSHA also intends to amend the corresponding standard for general industry so that requirements for work performed during the

maintenance of electric power transmission and distribution installations are the same as those for similar work in construction. In addition, OSHA will be revising a few miscellaneous general industry requirements primarily affecting electric transmission and distribution work, including provisions on electrical protective equipment and foot protection. This rulemaking also addresses fall protection in aerial lifts for power generation, transmission and distribution work. OSHA published an NPRM on June 15, 2005. A public hearing was held March 6 to 14, 2006.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
SBREFA Report	06/30/03	
NPRM	06/15/05	70 FR 34821
NPRM Comment Period End	10/13/05	

Action	Date	FR Cite
Comment Period Extended to 01/11/2006	10/12/05	70 FR 59290
Public Hearing to be held 03/06/2006	10/12/05	70 FR 59290
Post-Hearing Comment Period End	07/14/06	
Final Action	04/00/08	

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: Yes

Agency Contact: Dorothy Dougherty, Director, Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 200 Constitution Avenue NW., FP Building, Room N3718, Washington, DC 20210
Phone: 202 693-1950
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RIN: 1218-AB67

Department of Labor (DOL)

Completed Actions

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

418. LEAD IN CONSTRUCTION (COMPLETION OF A SECTION 610 REVIEW)

Legal Authority: 29 USC 655(b); 5 USC 553; 5 USC 610

Abstract: OSHA will undertake a review of the Lead in Construction Standard (29 CFR 1926.62) in accordance with the requirements of the Regulatory Flexibility Act and section 5 of Executive Order 12866. The review will consider the continued

need for the rule; impacts of the rule; comments on the rule received from the public; the complexity of the rule; whether the rule overlaps, duplicates, or conflicts with other Federal, State, or local regulations; and the degree to which technology, economic conditions, or other factors may have changed since the rule was last evaluated.

Timetable:

Action	Date	FR Cite
Begin Review	06/06/05	70 FR 32739
End Review Comment	09/06/05	70 FR 32739
Comment Period Extended	08/29/05	70 FR 50996
Extended Comment Period End	11/07/05	70 FR 50996
Completed Review	09/27/07	72 FR 54826

Regulatory Flexibility Analysis Required: No

DOL—OSHA

Completed Actions

Agency Contact: John Smith,
Directorate of Evaluation and Analysis,
Department of Labor, Occupational
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Constitution Avenue NW., FP Building,
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RIN: 1218-AC18

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