

Laboratory Exercise 1: Interpreting Standards

INTRODUCTION

Industrial hygienists, as well as many other related professionals, often deal with regulatory agencies, interpreting and complying with policies, regulation, standards, etc. Fortunately, regulatory agencies often make this information readily available online, and this certainly is the case for OSHA. Proprietary standards, like those developed by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) also are online, but only if you purchase them.

This exercise is intended to introduce students to these online resources.

After completing this laboratory session, students should be able to:

- Find, read and understand OSHA standards
- Interpret standards using OSHA documents
- Use OSHA computerized resources
- Get information about other (non-OSHA) standards

“You don’t have to like regulations, but you must be able to deal with them”

- 1) Complete these sheets and attach them to your report write up, then turn in to course instructor.
- 2) For the Report,
 - a) Summarize in your own words the purpose of this lab exercise (a paragraph).
 - b) Complete the following and submit a short write-up:
 - i) OSHA e-tools.
 - (1) Choose one of the new OSHA e-tools and become familiar with it.
 - (2) Briefly explain (one or two paragraphs) your opinion on this e-tool, including usefulness to IH/Safety professionals, managers and workers, and what you think is the most important learning tool provided to the user.
 - ii) MSHA Video Clips.
 - (1) View one of the video clips under the Education & Training link.
 - (2) Write a brief summary of the video (at least a paragraph).
 - (3) Include what you believe is the most important learning that the video provides and then provide your opinion of the quality and effectiveness of video. (at least a paragraph)
 - iii) OSHA Letters of “Standard Interpretations” and go to the Standard # Tab
 - (1) Find a topic of interest within 1910 and review a “Standard Interpretation” of a question that a person from an industry asked of OSHA
 - (2) Print the document and provide a summary paragraph of the question and the OSHA interpretation as you understand it.