

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

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**PROGRAM DIRECTIVE**

Program Directive A-8  
Issued January 1, 1979  
Revised January 25, 2001

**SUBJECT:** Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) Exposures

**AFFECTED CODES/**

**DIRECTIVES:** ORS 654.010; 437-01-760 (1)(a); 1910.120, 1910.132, 1910.133, 1910.134; 437-02-123; 437-02-127; 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. PCB's 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 ( 1910.132- 1910.140), 437-02-123, 437-02-127, 437-02-133, 437-02-137.
- 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 437-01-760(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This directive is effective immediately and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded.