

Employers at risk

OSHA ALERT

“OSHA rule 29 CFR 1910.132(a) requires employers to protect their employees against overexposure to the sun’s radiation”.

Directorate of Compliance Programs, OSHA 1910.132

Current OSHA standard 1926.28(a) “requires protection against all known and recognized hazards”. Additionally, “Protective equipment for eyes, face, head and extremities, protective clothing... protective shields and barriers, shall be provided (to workers)”.

“The personal protective equipment standards at 29 CFR 1910.132 through 138 establish the employer’s obligation to provide personal protective equipment to employees (at the employer’s expense)”.

OSHA Interpretation October 18, 1994.

NIOSH ALERT

The National Institute of Occupational Safety & Health (NIOSH) intends to release a NIOSH ALERT regarding the hazards of ultraviolet radiation (sun exposure) to outdoor workers in the near future.

The American Academy of Dermatology has determined, “Skin Cancer is an important occupational illness and is most often the result of excessive exposure to ultraviolet light”.

In light of these events SunX has developed an SPF 30 sunscreen which is packaged in a variety of sizes from single-use Towelettes to bulk dispensers for use by businesses with outdoor workers.



Outdoor Worker Skin Care Concerns

It's apparent the responsibility of the employer to develop skin care wellness programs for their employees is becoming a major concern. More and more risk management and human resource teams in the American workforce are exploring ways to develop effective and affordable skin care programs.

With skin cancer cases on the rise, West Nile Virus and Lyme Disease cases increasing, H1N1 still a major concern and poisons plants a major cause of work loss has the employers looking for solutions.

How to afford skin care programs and how to implement them starts with skin care education. The largest organ of the human body is your skin. To protect it use these common sense suggestions:

- Sun Protection: Use a FDA compliant 30SPF UVA & UVB rated sunscreen and apply it 20 minutes before going outside. Cover all exposed areas at least twice a day. **Suggested Product: CoreTex Sun X SPF 30 Sunscreen**
- Insect Protection: Use a CDC and EPA recommended DEET based repellent. A 30% DEET based repellent will be effective for 8 hours. Use a spray application for clothes and a lotion application for exposed skin areas. **Suggested Product: CoreTex Bug X 30 Insect Repellent**
- Poisonous Plant Protection: Pre-Contact; apply barrier lotion before going outdoors where poisonous plants are present. Apply to all exposed skin areas and re-apply after heavy activity as necessary. **Suggested Product: CoreTex Ivy X Pre-Contact Skin Barrier**
- Poisonous Plant Protection: Post-Contact; Use a poisonous plant cleanser designed to remove plant oils (Urushiol) within 45 minutes of coming in contact with plants. Wash exposed clothing before wearing again. Use post-contact cleanser as a laundry additive. **Suggested Product: CoreTex Ivy X Skin Cleanser**
- Hand Sanitizer: Use a FDA compliant sanitizer (62% Ethyl Alcohol) at least 3 times a day or as often as necessary depending on skin contact and activity. Use a product that has Aloe Vera for replacing moisture and Vitamins A & E for skin repair. **Suggested Product: CoreTex Corium Hand Sanitizer**

The O.S.H.A standard states "Protect the Employee From All Known and Recognized Hazards" 1926.28 (a). That includes skin care.

CoreTex Products has products your employees will use and packaging the employer can afford. Find out how CoreTex can assist you in implementing a cost effective skin wellness program in your workplace.



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OSHA requirements are set by statute, standards and regulations. Our interpretation letters explain these requirements and how they apply to particular circumstances, but they cannot create additional employer obligations. This letter constitutes OSHA's interpretation of the requirements discussed. Note that our enforcement guidance may be affected by changes to OSHA rules. Also, from time to time we update our guidance in response to new information. To keep apprised of such developments, you can consult OSHA's website at <http://www.osha.gov>.

April 16, 1998

Ms. Pauline Wright
7 Portland Road
Bishop Stortford, Herts CM23 3SL
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Wright:

This is in response to your fax of March 11, 1998, requesting information on the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA's) policy on skin cancer as a risk to outdoor workers. Your letter asked several questions on regulatory requirements, public education and employer attitudes towards this issue. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration does address worker exposure to the sun's radiation indirectly under our 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.132(a) pertaining to personal protective equipment. Employers are to use effective forms of protection such as wide-brim hats and long sleeve clothing. In situations where the only effective means of protection is sun screen, then it too may be used.

We also have guidelines against heat stress, but these requirements were designed for very hot indoor environments such as foundries, laundries and bakeries -- to name a few ([see attached](#)).

As far as the other questions you asked, the government agency within the U.S. which may be able to provide further information is the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH):

[National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)]

Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg.
200 Independence Ave., SW
Room 715H
Washington, DC 20201
Phone: (202) 401-6997 or Toll Free 1-800-356-4674]

This agency is the occupational research arm for OSHA and may have the type of information you seek.

I hope this clarifies OSHA's position on this issue. Thank you for your interest in safety and health.

Sincerely,

Melody Sands, Director
[Office of Health Enforcement]

[Corrected 8/23/2004. Note: Additional information on Heat Stress, including the referenced Fact Sheet, is available through OSHA's [Heat Stress Technical Links Page](#).]