

Summary of OSHA Medical Surveillance Action and Exposure Levels

NOTE: This summary is intended to highlight medical surveillance provisions for specific substances. It is not a standard or regulation. For full details of specific regulations, see <https://www.osha.gov/medical-surveillance>.

IMPORTANT: State plan state employers should also check their state regulations to ensure compliance with any requirements that may be more stringent than federal OSHA.

SUBSTANCE	AL	PEL	EL	REGULATION(S)
Acrylonitrile	1 ppm	2 ppm	---	1910.1045, 1926.1145
Arsenic (Inorganic)	5 µg/m ³	10 µg/m ³	---	1910.1018, 1926.1118
Asbestos	N/A	0.1 f/cc	1.0 f/cc averaged over 30 min	1910.1001, 1926.1101
Benzene	0.5 ppm	1 ppm	5 ppm averaged over any 15 min period	1910.1028, 1926.1128
Bloodborne Pathogens	Any exposure to blood or other potentially infectious material (OPIM)			1910.1030
1, 3-Butadiene	0.5 ppm	1 ppm	5 ppm averaged over a 15 min period	1910.1051, 1926.1151
Cadmium	2.5 µg/m ³	5 µg/m ³	---	1910.1027, 1926.1127
Carcinogens (Suspect)	Any area where listed carcinogens are manufactured, processed, repackaged, released, handled or stored.			1910.1003, 1926.1103
Chromium (VI), Hexavalent	2.5 µg/m ³	5 µg/m ³	---	1910.1026, 1926.1126
Coke Oven Emissions	N/A	150 µg/m ³	---	1910.1029
Compressed Air Environments	Any time employees are placed into a compressed air environment (e.g., compression chamber)			1926.803
Cotton Dust (Yarn Manuf/Cotton Wash)	100 µg/m ³	200 µg/m ³	---	1910.1043
Cotton Dust (Textile Mill Dust/Waste)	250 µg/m ³	500 µg/m ³	---	1910.1043
Cotton Dust (Textile Processing)	375 µg/m ³	750 µg/m ³	---	1910.1043
1, 2-dibromo-3-chloropropane (DBCP)	N/A	Inhalation - 1 ppb; Skin/Eye - 0	---	1910.1044, 1926.1144
Ethylene Oxide (EtO)	0.5 ppm	1 ppm	5 ppm averaged over a 15 min period	1910.1047, 1926.1147
Formaldehyde	0.5 ppm	0.75 ppm	2 ppm averaged over a 15 min period	1910.1048, 1926.1148
HAZWOPER	Dependent upon substance to which employee is exposed. See individual substance.			1910.120, 1926.65
Hazardous Chemicals in Labs	Dependent upon substance to which employee is exposed. See individual substance.			1910.1450
Lead	30 µg/m ³	50 µg/m ³	---	1910.1025, 1926.62
Methylene Chloride (MC)	12.5 ppm	25 ppm	125 ppm averaged over a 15 min period	1910.1052, 1926.1152
Methylenedianiline (MDA)	5 ppb	10 ppb	100 ppb averaged over a 15 min period	1910.1050
Noise	85 dBA (or 50%)	90 dBA	Refer to Table G-15 (1910) or D-2 (1926)	1910.95, 1926.52
Respiratory Protection	Dependent upon respiratory hazard to which employee is exposed. See individual substance.			1910.134, 1926.103
Vinyl Chloride (chloroethene)	0.5 ppm	1 ppm	15 ppm averaged over a 15 min period	1910.1017, 1926.1117

Key Definitions

1910 - General industry standards covering industries not included in construction, agriculture, or maritime.

1926 - Construction standards covering construction, alterations, and/or repair.

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a particular substance, calculated over an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA), that initiates specific required responses or activities.

dBA - The standard measurement for determining hearing damage; A-weighted decibel is the relative loudness (frequency) of sounds perceived by the human ear.

Excursion Limit (EL) - The concentration of a particular substance to which an employee may exceed the PEL for a limited of time during a workday.

f/cc - fiber per cubic centimeter of air

µg/m³ (or µgm/m³) - micrograms per cubic meter of air

Parts per billion (ppb) - The quantity of components a molecule or compound makes up within one billion parts of a whole substance.

Parts per million (ppm) - The quantity of components a molecule or compound makes up within one million parts of a whole substance.

Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) - The legal limit of employee exposure to a particular substance, calculated over an 8-hour time weighted average (TWA).