



— HEALTH AND SAFETY LAW NEWS —

OSHA Update

New and Updated Publications

At the end of 2011, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued various new and updated publications on a number of topics that may impact many employers.

The *Construction Industry Digest* summarizes significant requirements that are most applicable to the construction industry.

Those in the construction industry should also familiarize themselves with the *OSHA Residential Construction Fall Protection Requirements*, which are now fully implemented and being enforced by OSHA, after the conclusion of an enforcement phase-in period in 2011.

The *Laboratory Safety Guide* discusses ways to ensure the safety of laboratory workers. The *Small Entity Compliance Guide for Respiratory Protection Standard* will assist employers in complying with complex requirements for employees that utilize respiratory protection. These guidance documents can provide useful information on how to understand the OSHA requirements and the agency's intentions for compliance.

Finally, OSHA published a booklet setting forth *Employer Rights and Responsibilities Following an OSHA Inspection*. This is a great tool to be familiar with **before** OSHA knocks on your door. If you have not yet been subject to an inspection under OSHA's new penalty structure, you should focus on bringing your facility into compliance now, as the **base penalties have essentially doubled** under most circumstances. OSHA has less discretion to negotiate to lower penalties than it had in the past.

For additional information on these and other OSHA related topics, visit www.osha.gov.

If you have any questions on the new guidance documents, OSHA inspections, or the new penalty structure for recent OSHA inspections, **please contact any of the following Hancock Estabrook attorneys:**

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