

- **Asbestos Program Transfer from Ohio Dept. of Health to Ohio EPA**
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- **Hawaii Becomes First State to Pass Laws Supporting Paris Accord**

Asbestos Program Transfer from Ohio Dept. of Health to Ohio EPA

COLUMBUS, OH (May 30, 2017) - Ohio EPA is anticipating the passage of Ohio’s Biennium Budget for Fiscal Year 2018-2019 by the 132nd Ohio General Assembly in the Summer of 2017. If enacted, this bill would transfer the Ohio Dept. of Health (ODH) Asbestos program to the Ohio EPA. This would allow the Director to adopt the rules governing asbestos hazard abatement contractors, specialists, project designers, workers, training courses and other professionals currently existing and regulated by ODH in Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) Chapter 3701-34.

The first step in the rule-making process is for Ohio EPA to identify that a rule needs to be amended, rescinded, or created. In response to EO 2011-01K, Ohio EPA has added an additional step to ensure stakeholders are brought into the rule process as early as possible. This additional interested party notification and request for information will allow for early feedback before the rule language has been developed by the Agency.

- Ohio EPA will be adopting the rules currently existing in OAC Chapter 3701-34 into Ohio EPA’s Section 3745 of the OAC. Ohio EPA is not aware, at this time, of any major changes necessary to these rules.
- Ohio EPA will evaluate and make changes as appropriate to conflicting definitions to ensure clarity for the regulated community.

More Information:

<http://epa.ohio.gov/Portals>

OSHA Delays Start of New Online Recordkeeping Rule

WASHINGTON, D.C. (May 17, 2017) - OSHA announced that employers do not have to file injury and illness information online with OSHA by the July 1 filing deadline. On May 11, 2016, OSHA issued a final rule requiring certain employers to submit injury and illness information electronically. While employers already submit workplace safety information to OSHA, it has so far been done in private. The new rule will make workplace safety data publicly available on OSHA’s website so that interested parties, such as competitors and unions, can search and download the data.

OSHA had previously set a deadline of July 1, 2017, for employers to file their injury and illness forms online. With the filing deadline less than a month away, OSHA has now delayed the effective date. A new deadline has not been announced. OSHA has not offered a formal reason for the postponement.

More Information:

<https://www.osha.gov/recordkeeping>

OSHA Announces Inaugural “Safe + Sound Week”

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 1, 2017) - The U.S. Department of Labor’s OSHA announced on June 1, 2017 it has designated June 12-18, 2017, as “Safe + Sound Week,” a new nationwide effort that calls on organizations of all sizes in a wide range of industries to raise awareness of the value and importance of workplace safety and health programs. Joining OSHA to sponsor the effort are the National Safety Council, American Industrial Hygiene Association, American Society of Safety Engineers and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. In addition, 85 trade associations, industry and professional groups are partnering with the Safe + Sound Week initiative.

Participating in “Safe + Sound Week” can help organizations get their safety and health program started or energize an existing one. While approaches vary, effective programs have three core elements:

- Management leadership that commits to establishing, maintaining and continually improving the program. Managers must also provide needed resources to support the program.
- Workers who help identify solutions for improvements. A workforce engaged in safety and health programs result in higher productivity, increased job satisfaction and strong worker retention, which combine to increase revenues and lower turnover and recruitment costs.
- A systematic “find and fix” approach that calls upon employers and workers alike to examine their workplaces – proactively and routinely – to identify and address hazards before an injury or illness occurs.

Information on how to participate in “Safe + Sound Week”, ideas for events and resources, and details of planned events around the country are available at this [link](#).

More Information:

<https://www.osha.gov/news/>

Hawaii Becomes First State to Pass Laws Supporting Paris Accord

WASHINGTON, D.C. (June 7, 2017) - On June 6, 2017 Hawaii took a defiant stand, becoming the first state to legally implement portions of the landmark Paris climate agreement that the President chose to abandon last week.

“Climate change is real, regardless of what others may say,” Hawaii Gov. David Ige said at a bill signing ceremony Tuesday in Honolulu. “Hawaii is seeing the impacts first hand. Tides are getting higher, biodiversity is shrinking, coral is bleaching, coastlines are eroding, weather is becoming more extreme. We must acknowledge these realities at home.” Lawmakers and environmental leaders in Hawaii are quick to say that there, the environment and the economy are inextricably linked. Tourists flock to the collection of islands to experience its beaches and explore its coral reefs, both of which are threatened by warming and rising waters.

In late May, the islands suffered the highest tides the state has seen in its 120 years of recording them. Called “king tides,” the water creeps up onto shore, swallowing beaches and flooding streets. King tides occur during the summer solstice and stretch the island’s high tides even higher. Rainfall patterns are shifting and the islands are experiencing more extreme weather, Lerner said, which was most evident during hurricane season in recent years. The 2015 season set five records, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

More Information:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news>