



OCT 18 2013

Mr. Kurt Riesenber, Executive Director
Spray Polyurethane Foam Alliance
4400 Fair Lakes Court
Suite 105
Fairfax, VA 22033

Dear Mr. Riesenber:

On June 20, 2013, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) announced a new National Emphasis Program (NEP) to identify and reduce or eliminate the dangerous health effects from occupational exposure to isocyanates. Through this NEP, OSHA will target multiple industries and focus on exposure through the skin, inhalation, and other routes.

The Isocyanates NEP combines enforcement and outreach efforts to raise awareness among employers, workers, and safety and health professionals of the serious health effects associated with occupational exposure to isocyanates.

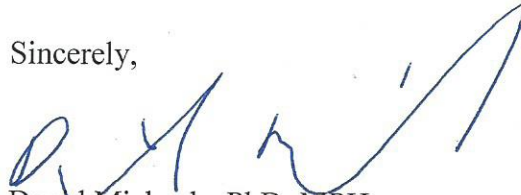
As you may know, isocyanates are chemicals that can cause occupational asthma, irritation of the skin, eyes, nose, and throat, and cancer. According to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), deaths have occurred due to both asthma and hypersensitivity pneumonitis from isocyanate exposure. Skin exposure to isocyanates is also a significant cause of respiratory illnesses. Isocyanates are used in materials including paints, varnishes, auto body repair, and building insulation. Jobs that involve exposure to isocyanates include painting, blown foam insulation, and the manufacture and thermal degradation of many polyurethane products such as polyurethane foam, insulation materials, surface coatings, car seats, furniture, foam mattresses, under-carpeting padding, packaging materials, shoes, laminated fabrics, polyurethane rubber, and adhesives.

Please assist us in protecting affected workers by sharing the information about the Isocyanates NEP with your members. A copy of the Isocyanates NEP is enclosed. The Isocyanates NEP is also available on OSHA's public page at:
http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=DIRECTIVES&p_id=5616.
Further information about isocyanates may be found on the OSHA Safety and Health Topics Isocyanates page at: <http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/isocyanates/index.html>. The isocyanates page provides information on recognizing potential hazards, as well as OSHA standards that address isocyanates in the general, construction, and maritime industries.

If you have questions about the Isocyanates NEP or compliance with OSHA regulations, you may contact OSHA by calling toll free 1-800-321-OSHA (6742), and press option 4.

OSHA appreciates your interest in occupational safety and health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Michaels', with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

David Michaels, PhD, MPH

Enclosure