Nondiscrimination Law - Clarifying Your Responsibilities

A new online tool from the US Department of Labor helps employers ensure that their policies and practices do not discriminate against individuals with disabilities. Based on answers to a half-dozen questions, a customized list of laws that may apply is generated, plus relevant information on the selected laws.

DOL - (elaws - Disability Nondiscrimination Law Advisor) - www.dol.gov/elaws/odep.htm

Hot Topic: Combustible Dust

In February 2008, an explosion and fire at a sugar refinery in Georgia caused 14 deaths and left many workers seriously injured with severe burns. Sugar dust is an example of a combustible material, in a fine particle form, that can burn rapidly and if suspended in air in the right concentration, become explosive. Concerned that managers and workers need more awareness of the potential for this hazard, OSHA has posted a Safety and Health Topics Web page on combustible dust and is considering developing a standard [See following item].

OSHA (Safety and Health Topics) - www.osha.gov/dsg/combustibledust/index.html

OSHA schedules first virtual stakeholder meeting

On June 28 at 1 pm (EDT) OSHA will be seeking input about combustible dust workplace hazards through a virtual stakeholder meeting. The first-of-its-kind, one-hour meeting, conducted as live chat, is an effort to provide more opportunity for public participation in the rulemaking process.

Web Chat with OSHA - Combustible Dust - www.dol.gov/dol/chat/chat-osha-20100628.htm

Worker exposure in health care facilities studied

A CDC study published in May looked at the health effects on workers of the sterilizers, disinfectants, and sanitizers used in health care facilities in California, Louisiana, Michigan, and Texas (the states that regularly collect data on these antimicrobial pesticides, as they are known. Results showed the most common active ingredients responsible for illnesses were quaternary ammonium compounds (QACs), glutaraldehyde, and sodium hypochlorite, i.e. bleach. While symptoms were mostly mild and temporary, the research indicates the value of education on their hazards and appropriate PPE (especially eye protection).

MMWR (Acute Antimicrobial Pesticide-Related Illnesses Among Workers in Health-Care Facilities-California, Louisiana, Michigan, and Texas, 2002-2007) - www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5918a2.htm

The University of Iowa College of Public Health (UI CPH) is undergoing re-accreditation by the Council on Education for Public Health (CEPH) which is an independent agency recognized by the US Department of Education to accredit schools of public health. As part of the re-accreditation process, the UI CPH completed and submitted a preliminary self-study to CEPH on May 4, 2010, that addressed all accreditation criteria. This self-study is posted for public comment at: http://www.public-health.uiowa.edu/about/accreditation.html. Any comments regarding the UI CPH and its accreditation status should be directed to CEPH at: Council on Education for Public Health, 800 Eye Street, NW, Suite 202, Washington, DC, 20001-3710

UI HealthWorks is a member of the WORKSAFE IOWA Occupational Medicine Associate Network, the only university-affiliated network of occupational health providers. WORKSAFE IOWA is an outreach program of the Department of Occupational and Environmental Health in the College of Public Health at the University of Iowa (www.public-health.uiowa.edu/worksafe).