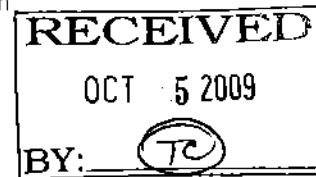


U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for
Occupational Safety and Health
Washington, D.C. 20210



SEP 29 2009



Patrick J. McConnon, MPH
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist (CSTE)
National Headquarters
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Dr. McConnon:

This is to acknowledge receipt of your letters dated July 21, 2009, notifying OSHA of the following Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologist position statements:

- 09-OH-01 "Public Health Ascertainment and National Notification of Silicosis.
- 09-OH-03 "Public Health Ascertainment and National Notification for Acute Pesticide related illness and injury.

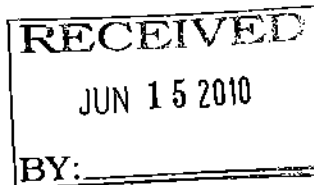
We have received these position statements. In your correspondence, you requested a response to position statement 09-OH092 concerning public health reporting of elevated lead levels. An OSHA response to this position statement will follow.

Thank you for this notification.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jordan Barab", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Jordan Barab
Acting Assistant Secretary



National Institute for
Occupational Safety and Health
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
395 E Street, SW - Ste 9200
Washington, DC 20201
PH: 202-245-0625

May 25, 2010

Patrick J. McConnon, M.P.H.
Executive Director
Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE)
2872 Woodcock Boulevard, Suite 303
Atlanta, Georgia 30341

Dear Mr. McConnon:

Thank you for the letter dated May 3, 2010. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has worked for nearly two decades with Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and our State partners to improve the recognition and reporting of occupational diseases by State health departments. Thus, I appreciate your follow-up and the opportunity for NIOSH to review and comment on each of the following position statements adopted on June 11, 2009.

09-OH-01 Public Health Ascertainment and National Notification for Silicosis

09-OH-02 Public Health Ascertainment and National Notification for Elevated Blood Lead Levels

09-OH-01 Public Health Ascertainment and National Notification for Acute Pesticide-Related illness and injury

NIOSH staff reviewed each of the position statements. NIOSH offers two comments and suggested changes to 09-OH-01 Public Health Ascertainment and National Notification for Silicosis (comments on enclosed attachment). In general, NIOSH views quite favorably, the inclusion of algorithms to facilitate electronic reporting and classification. These changes provide for timeliness of notification to Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and specify condition-specific data elements that should be provided in the initial clinician case reports to local and state public health authorities. NIOSH acknowledges the key role of CSTE in providing guidance for public health surveillance, and supports these position statements.

Sincerely,

John Howard, M.D.
for Director

cc:
Dr. Terri Schnorr
Mr. John Sestito
Dr. David Weissman
Ms. Margaret Filios
Dr. Walter Alarcon
Dr. Geoffrey Calvert

Comments

09-OH-01 Public Health Ascertainment and National Notification for Silicosis

First bullet:

- Notification to CDC/NIOSH of confirmed cases of silicosis is recommended.

NIOSH would like the notification to include probable cases of silicosis, as well as confirmed cases of silicosis. If accepted, the bullet would read: **“Notification to CDC/NIOSH of confirmed and probable cases is recommended.”**

Last bullet:

- Any re-release or publication of the case data requires permission from states submitting data to CDC/NIOSH. Re-release also requires requesting intramural and extramural researchers fill out special use agreement or Data Release Form, based on the *CDC-ATSDR Data Release Guidelines and Procedures for Re-release of State-provided Data*. CDC/NIOSH will only publish data on confirmed silicosis cases.

NIOSH finds the language in the last sentence to be somewhat restrictive. NIOSH would like to suggest the following change in language: **“CDC/NIOSH will publish data on confirmed silicosis cases, and may publish data on probable silicosis cases with concurrence of participating states which collect and submit silicosis case data.”**