



Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado, or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

Hexavalent Chromium Requirements in the Workplace

If a company works with chromium containing materials such as stainless steel, conducts chemical film or plating operations involving hexavalent chromium (Cr+6) or spray paints with products containing Cr+6, it is required by state and federal Occupational Safety and Health Administrations (OSHAs) to take specific actions.

As stated in a National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), "Workplace Safety & Health Topics" article on Hexavalent Chromium, these compounds are a large group of chemicals with varying chemical properties, uses, and workplace exposures. Their properties include corrosion-resistance, durability and hardness. Workers may be exposed to airborne Cr+6 when these compounds are manufactured from other forms of chromium (e.g., the production of chromates from chromite ore); when products containing Cr+6 are used to manufacture other products (e.g., chromate-containing paints, electroplating); or when products containing other forms of chromium are used in processes that result in the formation of Cr+6 as a by-product (e.g., welding).

Cr+6 has long been established as a cancer causing material and it is very tightly regulated by OSHA. Although there are some differences in the permissible exposure levels (PELs) and Action Levels (ALs) among the state and federal OSHA regulations, all OSHA jurisdictions require the following if a company has

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operations that could release Cr+6:

- Employers must conduct initial personal air monitoring that is representative of exposures to all personnel involved in the operation in question,
- Depending on results, monitoring may have to be repeated quarterly (if the PEL is exceeded), semiannually (if the AL is exceeded) or, regardless of the sampling results, sampling has to be repeated whenever there is a change in the operation,
- Employees must be notified of the results (i.e. within 5 days of receipt of the results),
- Employees whose exposures exceed the PEL or the AL must undergo periodic medical surveillance,
- There are other requirements such as sanitation, restricted areas and employee right to medical and exposure records.

"Exposures can be controlled through exhaust ventilation, good work practices and personal protective equipment," said William Jones, CIH, CSP, CPE and Vice President of Industrial Hygiene at Clark Seif Clark. "Even better, if a substitute product that does not contain Cr+6 can be used, personnel can be protected. Clark Seif Clark's experienced industrial hygienists can conduct air sampling, surface contamination (wipe) sampling, exhaust ventilation evaluations, make personal protective equipment evaluations, help write Cr+6 compliance plans and even assist with written employee notifications."

To learn more about this or other occupational, property damage, indoor air quality, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit www.csceng.com , email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Identifying Cockroach Allergens in Residential and Commercial Environments

Cockroaches are one of society's most commonly found pests. Worldwide there are thousands of species of cockroaches and several dozen are associated with human habitats. Of these, just a handful of species make up the vast majority of the pests found in homes, schools and offices.

The insects are normally considered to be nocturnal, so people may not always be aware of an infestation until it has gotten out of hand. Not only can cockroaches spread pathogens, but they are also a frequent cause of allergic reactions in people and are a known asthma trigger. Some health experts also believe exposure to cockroach allergens may lead to the development of asthma in young children.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports,

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Is It Safe?

"Droppings or body parts of cockroaches and other pests can trigger asthma. Certain proteins are found in cockroach feces and saliva and can cause allergic reactions or trigger asthma symptoms in some individuals."

Fortunately, there are simple steps that can be taken to reduce exposure risks to cockroach allergens, including the following:

- Store foods in airtight containers and keep lids on garbage.
- Keep commercial and residential kitchens and food storage areas clean and free of clutter.
- Seal cracks and openings in kitchens and throughout a building.
- Reduce humidity and repair any parts of a building that have suffered water damage.
- Wash bedding frequently using hot water.
- Carpeting can act as a sink for cockroach allergens so regularly vacuum with a HEPA vacuum or consider replacing carpeting with another type of flooring.
- The use of cockroach baits and traps can also be effective.

The presence of cockroaches can not only make some people squirm, but can also lead to respiratory concerns for building occupants. For people who have asthma, it's important for them to understand their exposure risks to various asthma triggers. For those sensitive to the presence of cockroach allergens, CSC offers indoor environmental allergen testing services to identify cockroach and other common indoor allergens. These environmental tests can provide important information for controlling and minimizing exposure and managing asthma symptoms.

CSC also recently sponsored an educational video about cockroaches and exposure concerns that can be seen here:



To learn more about environmental allergens or other indoor air quality, occupational, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit www.csceng.com, email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.