



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

www.csceng.com 800.807.1118

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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.

Asbestos Professional Employment Opportunity:

Clark Seif Clark, Inc. has immediate openings for an experienced asbestos professional in our Los Angeles and Orange County offices. A current certification from the State of California for either Certified Site Surveillance Technician (CSST) or Certified Asbestos Consultant (CAC) is required.

The successful candidate will independently develop, implement, coordinate, and oversee asbestos projects through completion. This may include conducting inspections, report writing, development of operations and maintenance plans, performing abatement oversight and development of project specifications. To learn more or to submit your resume, contact csc@csceng.com.

Understanding Which Asbestos-Containing Products the Federal Government has Banned

There have been thousands of consumer products and building materials produced over the years that contained asbestos. Asbestos offers many unique qualities that made it universally used, including its low cost, sound absorption characteristics and tensile strength, as well resistance to heat, fire, chemical corrosion and electricity. Unfortunately, it has also been known for some time that exposure to asbestos fibers could result in mesothelioma, asbestosis or lung cancer.

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Considering all that is known about inhalation exposure hazards to asbestos fibers, a large percentage of Americans are under the assumption the use of asbestos has been banned, but this is not completely the case. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) explains, "On July 12, 1989, the EPA issued a final rule under Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) banning most asbestos-containing products in the United States. In 1991, the rule was vacated and remanded by the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. As a result, most of the original ban on the manufacture, importation, processing, or distribution in commerce for most of the asbestos-containing product categories originally covered in the 1989 final rule was overturned. Only the bans on corrugated paper, rollboard, commercial paper, specialty paper, and flooring felt and any new uses of asbestos remained banned under the 1989 rule. Although most asbestos containing products can still legally be manufactured, imported, processed and distributed in the U.S., according to the U.S. Geological Survey, the production and use of asbestos has declined significantly."

To help protect workers, the public, and keep companies and institutions in regulatory compliance with asbestos regulations, there are companies that specialize in identifying and mitigating exposure risks. One of the leading providers of this service is Clark Seif Clark (CSC). Their industrial hygiene and indoor environmental quality (IEQ) professionals provide asbestos sampling and consulting services to identify and mitigate exposure risks.

"Every asbestos presentation I've given for the past 25 years has me worried someone in the audience will say 'Enough. We know. Asbestos was not banned for use in the U.S.'," said Derrick A. Denis, Vice President of Indoor Environmental Quality of Clark Seif Clark. "But, every class I start the asbestos module with the same question... What year was asbestos banned for use in the United States? Without exception, the students (building owners, property managers, Realtors, facilities professionals, architects, etc.) shout out with confidence various dates between 1975 and 1985. All are incorrect. The answer is never. Of course that is a 'Never' with a few caveats that can be found on the EPA website. But, essentially...NEVER. And, that is why the EPA requires asbestos testing or asbestos presumption of building materials regardless of the age of the structure. That is why OSHA says don't expose workers to airborne asbestos fibers above the permissible exposure limit (PEL) without a date qualifier."

To help explain which asbestos-containing products are banned and not banned in the United States, CSC has sponsored an educational

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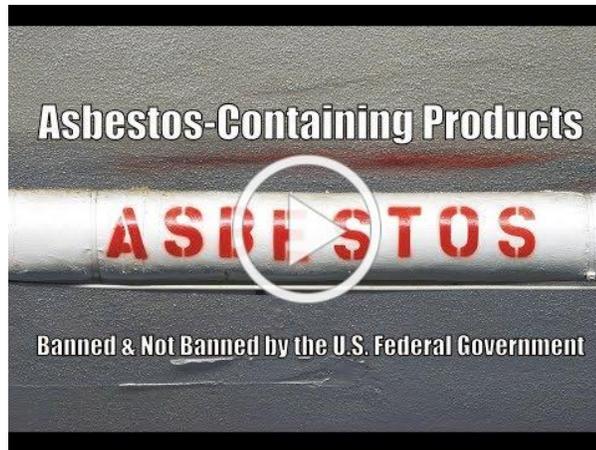
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Is It Safe?

video that can be seen here:



Asbestos-Containing Products: Banned and Not Banned by the U.S. Federal Government

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

Recognizing Mold Exposure Issues in the Work Environment

Shortly after Hurricane Michael left a path of destruction across parts of the Florida Panhandle and neighboring areas, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) released a guidance document for residents and workers tasked with cleaning up and repairing damaged properties.

The document covers a number of potential health and safety issues that people could encounter. One particular area of concern is mold and specifically having it in the workplace. Unfortunately, mold exposure issues are not just associated with hurricane damaged areas. Any indoor work environment that has suffered water damage or elevated humidity levels resulting in mold amplification can present personnel with exposure to elevated indoor mold concentrations.

While there are currently no federal standards for airborne concentrations of mold or mold spores in the work environment, the General Duty Clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSH Act) does states that employers have the responsibility to provide a safe and healthful workplace that is free from serious recognized hazards. There are many government guidelines, such as

the OSHA *A Brief Guide to Mold in the Workplace*, the EPA *Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings Guide* and the NIOSH *Recommendations for the Cleaning and Remediation of Flood-Contaminated HVAC Systems: A Guide for Building Owners and Managers*. Additionally, there are abundant industry guidelines such as the IICRC *S520 Standard and Reference Guide for Professional Mold Remediation* and the AIHA *Assessment, Remediation, and Post-Remediation Verification of Mold in Building*.

Exposure to moldy environments may cause a mold overexposure that can result in adverse health effects in workers or other occupants. Restoration workers are at higher risk because they disturb and aerosolize the moldy materials in close proximity to their faces, they can come into direct skin contact with moldy materials and they may work with these materials for extended durations. If susceptible and overexposed, workers might experience allergic responses, sensitization, intoxication or even infection. Protecting workers from mold related hazards is only one of many risks employers need to consider during flood responses, but with training, appropriate engineering controls and personal protective equipment, worker risks can be minimized.

Employers and workers concerned about mold exposure can turn to CSC for indoor environmental assessments conducted by experienced professionals. Through building inspections, testing and monitoring, CSC can identify issues associated with mold, water damage and other indoor concerns. They also offer remediation oversight to help ensure any issues are correctly resolved. CSC has even sponsored an educational video about mold exposure and the work environment that can be seen here:



Mold Exposure in the Work Environment

To learn more about this 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.