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Press Release

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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Federal OSHA Solicits Public Comments on Acetylene Standard

JUNEAU, Alaska—The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration is revising its Acetylene Standard for general industry by updating references to standards published by standards developing organizations.

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The Alaska Occupational Safety and Health program is required by Alaska Statute 18.60.303(6) to maintain standards that are at least as effective as federal OSHA standards. Under federal guidelines, AKOSH has six months to adopt the minimum revised standard. As a result AKOSH is providing information about this notice of intent to adopt the amendment to the acetylene standard, which has been previously adopted by reference.

This direct final rule updates the SDO standards that comprise the Acetylene Standard. The Compressed Gas Association (CGA) published several editions of these SDO standards after OSHA adopted them in 1974, and one of these standards (Compressed Gas Association Pamphlet G-1.4-1966), is no longer available for purchase from CGA. Therefore, to ensure that employers have access to the latest safety requirements for managing acetylene, this rulemaking is adopting the requirements specified in the most recent versions of the SDO standards.

To make a comment on this proposed federal rule, or for a copy of the Federal Register notice and news release, go online: http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=OSHA-2008-0034.

The direct final rule is available online: <u>http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-18644.pdf</u>.

The proposed rule is available online: http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2009/pdf/E9-18643.pdf.

Comments submitted to OSHA are due by Sept. 10. For more information email Lani Mikelski (<u>lani.mikelski@alaska.gov</u>) or call 907-465-4855.

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