

EH&S Monthly Enews - June

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Formaldehyde Being Scrutinized

On July 7, 2010, President Obama signed the Formaldehyde Standards for Composite Wood Products Act into law. This legislation set limits on how much formaldehyde may be emitted from composite wood products including hardwood plywood, medium-density fiberboard, particleboard, and finished goods containing these products. It charged the EPA to develop regulations to implement these limits and ensure they are being met.

[On May 29, 2013](#), EPA proposed two rules to help protect Americans from exposure to the harmful chemical formaldehyde, consistent with a Federal law unanimously passed by Congress in 2010. These rules ensure that composite wood products produced domestically or imported into the United States meet the formaldehyde emission standards established by Congress.

You can find more information [here](#), or contact **Ted Karavedas at (413)-572-3282 or TMKaravedas@TigheBond.com**.

Underground Storage Tanks Added to MassGIS Database

Massachusetts has added an underground storage tank (UST) layer to the state's online mapping system known as Oliver. The database shows the approximate location of facilities where registered active USTs are located, as well as facility names. At this time, there are no plans to add more UST information to the system.

To access the MassGIS website [click here](#).

MassDEP is continuing to work on the draft UST regulations, and is hoping to release a draft version for public comment near the end of 2013 or early 2014.

You can contact **Gary Roberts at 413-875-1316**, or GMRoberts@TigheBond.com, for more information.

Proposed Changes to MCP Reportable Concentrations and Cleanup Standards

The Massachusetts Contingency Plan (MCP) is the set of regulations by which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts provides for the procedures relative to the notification, assessment, remediation and closure of releases of oil and hazardous materials (OHM). Hundreds of various compounds are regulated under these rules, which have established reportable concentrations and cleanup standards for releases to soil and groundwater.

Occasionally, the MassDEP reviews the MCP regulations with an eye toward updating them so that recent scientific understanding regarding the toxicology of various compounds can be reflected in the reportable concentrations and cleanup standards. MassDEP underwent such a review during 2012, and recently made available a proposed draft revision to the regulations. Public comment sessions on the proposed changes were held across the state in April 2013, and the public comment period on the regulatory revisions ran through May 17, 2013. Promulgation of the regulatory changes is expected in the second half of 2013.

[Click here](#) to find a link to MassDEP's public hearing draft of the regulations.

Included within the proposed changes are many streamlining efforts that should reduce both the costs and bureaucracy of complying with the MCP regulations, while at the same time safeguarding the public health and the environment. With regard to reportable concentrations and cleanup standards, some regulatory thresholds have gone up while others have decreased. The reportable concentration (RCS-1) for nickel, for example, will increase from 20 parts per million (ppm) to 600 ppm to reflect a better understanding of the toxicology of this metal. On the other hand, the proposed RCS-1 threshold for zinc is dropping from its current 2,500 ppm to a proposed reportable concentration of 1,000 ppm.

These are just two examples of a number of changes within the MCP regulations that could affect the approach one takes to evaluating and remediating a release of regulated material at your facility, whether that release is new or historic. Consultation with a Licensed Site Professional (LSP) is recommended.

For additional information regarding the Massachusetts Contingency Plan and Tighe & Bond's LSP services, please contact **Paul G. Beaulieu, LSP at (413) 572-3254** or PGBeaulieu@TigheBond.com.

Reminder: Both TRI and TUR Reports are due July 1, 2013

Tighe & Bond can assist your facility with the reporting challenges associated with these EPA and MassDEP programs. If you have any questions about the about the TRI or TUR Program, and these new updates, please contact **Ted Karavedas at (413)-572-3282** or TMKaravedas@TigheBond.com.



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