Difficult to keep up

LinkedIn is a useful tool but I have long thought that we need something more personal so that EHS professionals can help each other. We do not and Can Not know everything.

The ISHM blog is a great place to ask questions and share knowledge and experience with other professionals. The end result is greater safety for all.

Please use the blog to kick start the process so we all can grow and improve.

It can be found HERE

There are so many topics to write on and respond to: Driver safety, worker fatigue, natural disasters, and new technology to name just a few.
**Simple rules:** Play nice, no advertisements, no using 3rd party information without their written approval

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**Heavy Heart**

I am so sad to report that Dr. Joseph DeMaria, a long time ISHM member, awesome safety professional and good friend has passed away. Details not available as of press time.

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**Safety Regulations**

Safety regulations, almost always written in blood, have been and continue to be a great deterrent to unsafe conditions and actions.

Occasionally, a regulation pops up that seemingly places the EHS Pro in a horrible position.

Reacting to increased incidents causing damage, injury and death New York City has enacted regulations that are for the most part good for the EHS Pro such as a Mandated site Safety Plan.

The code also makes the on-site Safety Manager responsible for all safety requirements contained in the code. The Site Safety Manager must immediately notify the regulatory authority of conditions that could be immediately hazardous to the public. I wonder if that will get the safety folks crosswise with management?

My concern is that we seem to never learn. Safety MUST be the responsibility of the production supervisors who should be using the EHS pro as a consultant who helps them stay in compliance, and more importantly, safe.

Will we ever get there?

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Ask the Lawyer - Darren Hunter

Question:  My Company maintains Safety Data Sheets (SDSs) for the chemicals in the manufacturing area of our facility.  Are we also required to maintain SDSs for chemicals in the regular office area which is completely separated from the manufacturing portion of our facility?

Response:  Yes, but with a caveat.  Under OSHA's hazard communication standard, employers are required to maintain SDSs for hazardous chemicals in the workplace to which employees may be exposed under normal conditions of use and foreseeable emergencies.  This standard applies to chemicals that may be present in any type of work area, including a regular office area.

There are several exceptions to the rule, however.  The most pertinent exception under this hypothetical applies to ordinary consumer products that are typically stored and used in regular office areas, such as cleaning products (i.e., Windex) and office supplies (i.e., copy toner).  Employers are not required to maintain SDSs for these types of consumer products, so long as they are used in a duration and frequency of exposure which is not greater than the range of exposures that could reasonably be experienced by consumers when used for the purpose intended.  Therefore, if a typical office worker changes copy toner on a periodic basis in the ordinary course of employment, the employer is not required to maintain an SDS for the copy toner.  On the other hand, if an employee at a copy store changes toner on a more frequent basis as part of his job at the copy store, then an SDS is required.

Darren Hunter is a partner and an experienced OSHA practitioner in the Chicago law firm of Rooney Rippie & Ratnaswamy LLP.  This column does not constitute legal advice or the formation or proposal of an attorney-client relationship to or with any person or entity.  In addition, this column should not be understood to represent the views of ISHM, the law firm, the individual attorneys at the firm, or of any of the firm's clients or former clients.

Guest Post

Mixed Management Structure or Just Plain Mixed Up?

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