

JAIC News

JAIC Editorial Board Holds Meeting

The JAIC Editorial Board, comprised of the editor in chief, senior editor, associate editors, translation editors, book review editor, plus AIC Communications Director, traditionally meets once per year at the annual meeting. This year, we are holding two additional meetings via conference call to supplement the in-person meeting in May. The first of those calls was held in March.

The following news about changes to journal procedure is worth noting:

- Article abstract translations (into French, Spanish, and Portuguese) will again be included as part of each related article beginning with the May 2016 issue. Translations of past article abstracts will appear in the February 2016 issue.
- We are also revising the author instructions to make them easier to follow. Comments on the current instructions are welcome.
- We are encouraging more treatment articles and short communications, and will be approaching those presenting at the annual meeting to request that they submit their research for publication.

Taylor & Francis, our new publisher, will be represented at the annual meeting. Please stop by their booth to learn more about them.

Please note that the February 2016 issue of JAIC (Vol. 55, No. 1) has been delayed due to the transition at our new publisher.

We have a new production editor and Taylor & Francis are using a new layout team and management software. However, the author submission process remains the same.

—Julio del Hoyo-Meléndez, JAIC Editor-in-Chief,
jdelhoyo@muzeum.krakow.pl and Bonnie Naugle, AIC
Communications Director, bnaugle@conservation-us.org

Health & Safety Committee

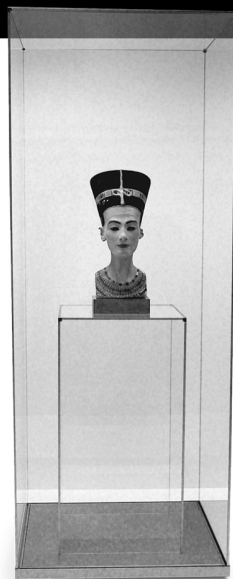
Health & Safety Regulations, Resources, and the Internet

Understanding workplace safety regulations and finding reliable information may be daunting, particularly when a simple web search produces hundreds of thousands of results – where do you begin? One place to start may be with the list of resources on the AIC Wiki developed by the Health & Safety Committee to answer many safety-related questions [www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Health_%26_Safety] and specifically the “Health and Safety Technical Resources for the Conservator” page [www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Health_%26_Safety:_Health_and_Safety_Technical_Resources_for_the_Conservator].

Other resources to consider are professional safety organizations, trade associations, and government agencies. At the federal level, safety regulation is partitioned across the Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Transportation (DOT), and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

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OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION (OSHA)

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) (www.osha.gov) is an agency within the Department of Labor with primary responsibility for the development and enforcement of workplace safety regulations. OSHA regulations are intended to address safe working conditions; they deal with issues related to the physical facility, equipment, and work activity. OSHA regulations are found in Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations [www.dol.gov/general/cfr/title_29] and are categorized by general industry, construction, maritime, and agriculture. Routine museum activities, including laboratory safety, are likely covered by general industry standards; however, construction standards may be more applicable to certain activities such as exhibit construction and de-construction, facility renovation, or maintenance activities. For example, the use of fall protection equipment is covered in construction industry standards, not general industry.

The OSHA website provides information, tools, and training to assist employers. OSHA's Onsite Consultation Program (<https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/smallbusiness/consult.html>) also offers free, confidential consultation services to small businesses, including labs, which provides advice to improve your health and safety work practices and training programs. OSHA started the small business consultation program in response to small business complaints that they wanted to provide a safe workplace if only they knew how. For small conservation labs and museums, it can be prohibitively expensive to hire lawyers and safety professionals

to explain how to comply with all regulations. In this program, no citations or penalties are issued and your only agreed obligation is to work with them on ways to correct serious hazards, a reasonable commitment for anyone.

States may elect to administer their own occupational safety and health programs, which must be at least as stringent as federal requirements, but may have additional unique requirements. If you work in a state that administers its own program, you must follow the state laws. You can find a list of state programs at <https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/statestandards.html>.

Federal OSHA regulations apply to all federal government agencies and private employers including museums, cultural institutions, and private conservation practices in states that do not have their own state plans. OSHA regulations apply regardless of the size of your business.

US DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DOT)

The US Department of Transportation (www.transportation.gov) oversees the formulation of national transportation policy and promotes intermodal transportation. Its agencies include: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA), Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), Maritime Administration (MARAD), and the US Coast Guard (USCG). Of particular relevance, the DOT regulates shipping of hazardous materials. If you ship hazardous materials, you are responsible for classification and identification, packaging, marking, and labeling hazardous



Patricia Cain, *Glasgow Overhang* (2004)
Mixed Media, 92 1/2" x 59" (235 x 150 cm)
Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, Glasgow, UK

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materials or dangerous goods according to all national and international governmental regulations. The FAA has a user-friendly website “Hazardous Materials Pack Safe Rules” http://www.faa.gov/about/initiatives/hazmat_safety/ for air shipments.

Guides are also available through United Parcel Service <https://www.ups.com/content/us/en/resources/ship/hazardous> and the US Postal Service <http://pe.usps.com/text/pub52/welcome.htm>.

Fedex provides a useful hazardous materials shipping guide for ground transportation <http://www.fedex.com/us/services/pdf/HazmatShippingGuide.pdf>.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

The stated mission of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) (www3.epa.gov) is to protect human health and the environment. This is accomplished through regulation and enforcement of pollutants to air, land, and waterways. There is some overlap between the EPA and other federal regulators. For example, OSHA regulations address occupational exposure to chemical and physical hazards (e.g. acetone, asbestos, noise, etc.) The EPA also regulates these potential hazards in non-workplace settings to control exposures to the community at large. A lab hood may be used to control chemical exposure within the workplace (regulated by OSHA), but the exhaust from that hood may be regulated by the EPA to protect neighboring populations and the environment.

Two topics of interest that are regulated by the EPA include

waste disposal and pesticides. Waste generated by your facility and operations is regulated by the EPA and includes both hazardous and non-hazardous solid waste. See <http://www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-waste>. Pesticide regulation is also handled by the EPA through the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) and other laws. They work cooperatively with state agencies to register pesticides, educate applicators, monitor compliance, and investigate pesticide problems. For more detailed information on the role of various federal agencies in regulating pesticides, choose from these topics on the National Pesticide Information Center website:

- EPA Role in Pesticide Regulation
- Role of Other Federal Agencies (FDA, USDA, etc.)
- Federal Pesticide Laws

Similar to the relationship with OSHA, states may elect to administer their own environmental programs which must be at least as stringent as federal environmental requirements. State programs, however, may cover only some environmental regulations. For example, your state may have its own regulations for underground storage tanks but follow federal RCRA (Resource Conservation and Recovery Act) regulations for waste. A list of state environmental and public health agencies may be found at <http://www.epa.gov/home/health-and-environmental-agencies-us-states-and-territories>.

Beyond federal or state environmental regulations, local governments (county or city) may also have specific environmental requirements which you would have to identify through



your local governing body. Assistance for a small business trying to sort through federal environmental regulations is available through EPA's resources for small businesses. See <http://www.epa.gov/resources-small-businesses>.

REGULATION OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIALS

Regulation of radioactive materials is handled by multiple federal agencies. Because of their potentially hazardous properties, the use of certain radioactive materials must be closely regulated to protect the health and safety of the public and the environment. The responsibility for licensing and regulating the use and handling of these materials is shared by the following governmental organizations:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Among other things, the EPA is responsible for setting air emission and drinking water standards for radioisotopes (<https://www.epa.gov/radiation>).
- The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) - (FDA's) Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) <http://www.cdrh.us/> is responsible for ensuring the safety and effectiveness of medical devices and the safety of radiation-emitting electronic products.
- The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) - The NRC is the federal agency responsible for protecting the health and safety of the public and the environment by licensing and regulating the civilian uses of the following radioactive materials:

- Source material (uranium and thorium) <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/srcmaterial.html>
- Special nuclear material (enriched uranium and plutonium) <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/sp-nucmaterials.html>
- Byproduct material (material that is made radioactive in a reactor, and residue from the milling of uranium and thorium) <http://www.nrc.gov/materials/byproduct-mat.html>

The NRC regulates the use of these radioactive materials through Title 10, Part 10, of the *Code of Federal Regulations* (10 CFR Part 20), "Standards for Protection Against Radiation," which spells out the agency's requirements for the following aspects of radiation protection:

- Dose limits for radiation workers and members of the public
- Exposure limits for individual radionuclides
- Monitoring and labeling radioactive materials
- Posting signs in and around radiation areas
- Reporting the theft or loss of radioactive material
- Penalties for not complying with NRC regulations

NON-REGULATING FEDERAL AGENCIES

Non-regulating federal agencies such as the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and its sub-agency, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) are research organizations that are an excellent resource for reliable safety and health



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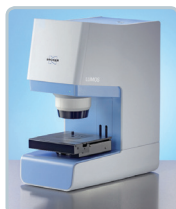
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information. The focus of the CDC is disease control and prevention, food borne pathogens, environmental health, occupational safety and health, health promotion, injury prevention and educational activities designed to improve the health of United States citizens. NIOSH (<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/>) has one mission – research and information to prevent occupational injury and illness.

Stepping outside the federal government, there are many safety-related professional organizations involved with the development of subject-specific information and standards.

The Society of Standards Professionals defines a standard as “a document that applies collectively to codes, specifications, recommended practices, classifications, test methods, and guides, which have been prepared by a standards-developing organization or group, and published in accordance with established procedures.”

Standards are generally where you will find in-depth, specific technical expertise and best practices. Standards are often more detailed and industry-specific than federal regulations and generally more current. For example, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops industry-specific codes such as NFPA 909, *Code for the Protection of Cultural Resources—Museums, Libraries, and Places of Worship*. The NFPA also has a Cultural Resource Committee that may be able to assist with specific fire protection questions. Nationally recognized consensus standards

are often adopted in whole or in part by regulatory agencies that rely on the technical expertise of the consensus body. One listing of standards may be found at <http://ibr.ansi.org/Standards/>.

CONCLUSIONS

Regulations are not necessarily a reflection of best practice and because of their broad applications, regulations may not address the nuances of your particular circumstances. Also, because of rulemaking processes, information found in regulatory standards may not be the most current or protective, often resulting in information that conflicts with other technical resources. For example, OSHA guidelines limit mercury vapor exposure to 0.1 mg/M³ of air (29 CFR 1910.1000 Table Z-2). However, this level does not reflect current toxicological literature on mercury health effects. The more current and conservative occupational exposure level is 0.025 mg/M³ as an 8-hour time-weighted average, established by the American Conference of Governmental Industrial Hygienists (ACGIH TLVs and BEIs, current edition).

While the internet is a fabulous tool for researching information, it is important to know when you need professional assistance.

If you have a question or concern about health and safety in your conservation work contact the committee at HealthandSafety@conservation-us.org.

—Julie Sobelman, CIH CSP LEED AP, huntersv@crn.com, and members of the AIC Health and Safety Committee

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