Identifying Lead in the Workplace

Note: The following lists are provided to help you identify common sources of lead or lead-containing materials at a worksite. This is not a complete list by any means; other sources may also be identified. You are responsible for conducting a complete review of the premises, materials (including Safety Data Sheets), and processes involved in your business operation.

Processes that may involve lead:

Manufacturing:

Lead acid batteries

Paint*, glazes, pigments, inks, dyes

Ceramics, tile, porcelain

Leaded glass, crystal, stained glass

Cable, wire products, solder

Rubber or plastics

Aircraft, aircraft parts, shipbuilding

Automobiles, trucks, automotive radiators

Firearms, bullets, explosives

Adhesives, sealants, lubricants

Metal working (with lead-containing metals):

Smelting, refining, processing scrap metal

Recycling lead, batteries, cable, etc.

Foundry work, casting, forging

Grinding, polishing, deburring, machining

Soldering, brazing, tinning

Galvanizing operations, plating/electroplating

Heat treating, quenching, annealing

Fabricating sheet metal products (e.g., HVAC, gutters)

Repair:

Automotive radiator repair, auto body, ship repair

Welding, cutting, sanding, grinding of lead alloys or lead-coated surfaces

Soldering, electronics repair

Repair work that disturbs lead paint

Construction:

Painting or paint removal (sanding, abrasive blasting, scraping,

torching, stripping, heat gun applications)*

Wrecking, demolition, cutting painted walls

Welding or cutting materials with lead-coated surfaces or lead

Remodeling/renovation/tenant improvements/repairs

Plumbing, glazing, brick laying, lead burning

Construction/repair of bridges, water towers, tanks

Cleanup of lead dust, debris, lead-contaminated soil

Roofing (use of leaded roofing materials, tear-off of painted or

other lead-containing roofing materials)*

Other:

Shooting firearms, cleanup at firing ranges

Using lead-containing paints, inks, pigments, glazes

Industrial cleaning operations

Telecommunications cable removal

Fishing weights and lures manufacturing

Materials that may contain lead:

Note: for product-specific information, refer to Safety Data Sheets provided by the product manufacturer

Pigments:

Paints*

Painted surfaces*—Assume lead-containing paint to be present on buildings built before 1978 and on painted metal surfaces (painted in any year)

Glazes, frits

Dyes, colorants

Inks

Alloys and metal products:

Lead

Brass

Bronze

Pewter

"White metal"

Cast iron

Lead-plated materials (e.g., steel strapping)

Plumbing fittings

Lead sheeting and pipe

Scrap metal-lead alloys, materials with lead coatings

Some steel and aluminum alloys

Repair materials:

Solder

Lead caulking

Lead fillers in auto body work

Cable coverings

Other:

Electric storage batteries

Ammunition

Explosives

Lead stabilizers and plasticizers in plastics

Lead driers in paints

Chemical additives

^{*} Many people incorrectly believe that lead in paints is no longer a problem. In 1977, the Consumer Product Safety Commission severely limited the lead content in paint used for residences or on toys. Older painted surfaces frequently contain significant quantities of lead. Lead pigments are still used in some paint applications, often to prevent corrosion on metal surfaces.