

EPA's lead Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) April 22, 2010 deadline.

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The big question contractors are asking is “does this apply to me?” As with many Federal Regulations, 40 CFR Part 745 has good intentions. This law requires notification/education of occupants and the use of safe work practices when working around lead paint. More than likely, your business will be affected by these regulations

This article will help you determine whether your firm needs to apply for certification.

40 CFR Part 745 does not apply to you if you can confidently say your firm NEVER works in residences or child occupied facilities built before 1978.

Not many contractors can say they don't perform renovation work in these facilities. Even if you don't think this regulation applies to you, the risk is substantial. Where as a Renovator Certification costs only \$300 and is valid for 5 years, an RRP violation can cost in excess of \$32K per violation per day. If you're not entirely sure about whether the new RRP bill affects your business, you're probably better off erring on the side of caution.

Like any Federal Regulation there are many exceptions. In order to understand the scope of all these exceptions, you need to become very familiar with 40 CFR part 745. The best way to get familiar with the regulation is to take the RRP Renovator training. If the work you perform must comply with this ruling, you need to get certified. With the current flurry of activity, EPA certification can take 60 days.

So what kind of work is covered by this ruling?

Any disturbance or removal of building components that have not been certified lead free. Disturbance is any activity that may cause lead paint to become airborne. Sanding, surface prep, demolition, drilling, cutting, grinding, etc. are only few examples that could cause lead paint to become airborne.

The general rule is you must comply with Lead Work Safe Practices if:

- ❖ Your work causes disturbance of more than 6 sq ft in any one room or 20 sq ft of exterior,
 - sanding a single interior door is greater than 6 sq ft,
 - sanding interior trim on 2 doors is greater than 6 sq ft,
 - scraping a wall for paint prep is greater than 6 sq ft,
 - sanding an exterior door and trim is greater than 20 sq ft
- ❖ Your work includes any amount of demolition:
 - Removal of door / window trim,
 - Removing painted HVAC duct,
 - Removing painted radiator,
 - Removing old furnace (factory paint may contain lead),
 - removing base trim to install new flooring is greater than 6 sq ft,
- ❖ Your work is replacing window,

- ❖ You use of any prohibited practices.
 - Open flame burning or torching
 - Use of high speed power tool without HEPA vacuum attached
 - Heat gun over 1,100 degrees Fahrenheit.

So now that you've determined your company should be certified, what next? The EPA website has the application. www.epa.gov/lead. Training will be required before work is performed under the companies' certification.

Any worker that performs renovations has to be trained. This is either an EPA approved 8 hr Certified Renovator program or brief training by a Certified Renovator. For example, your company can send 1 person to an EPA Certified Renovator program. After successful completion of this program, that worker will be qualified to train non-certified workers on Lead Safe Work Practices. A noncertified renovator needs 2 hrs of training by a Certified Renovator. Theoretically you can send only one employee to the 8 hr course, then have that employee train other employees in your company.

There is a major stipulation: Work can be performed by non-certified workers but the Certified Renovator must monitor work in progress AND must be physically present during setup and cleanup. I suggest at minimum having a worker from each crew certified. This should eliminate run around and potential lapse in required supervision.

Nothing in this article should be considered legal interpretation of the law. It's intended to be a general reference and a recommendation to investigate further.

More information is available at www.epa.gov/lead or in the Compliance Tools section of our website www.ctienvironmental.com

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