

## Air Monitoring for Lead - Get What You Pay For

### Why should I measure lead in the air?

Measuring the amount of lead in the air workers breathe is one way to check if your lead safety program is working. Also, Cal/OSHA requires that you do air monitoring for lead to determine how much lead your employees are exposed to at work. Air monitoring will tell you:

- Whether your operation and work methods are creating too much airborne lead.
- Whether your employees' respiratory protection is adequate.
- Whether you are complying with the Cal/OSHA legal exposure limit for lead.



An industrial hygienist measures lead exposure to an ironworker on a bridge job

### How do I choose someone to do air monitoring for me?

Some workers' compensation insurance carriers will do free air monitoring. Contact your workers' compensation carrier to see if they provide this service. Cal/OSHA Consultation Service (a non-enforcement program) will do air monitoring for free one time. You can also hire an industrial hygiene consultant. The American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA) has a list of professional industrial hygienists who can provide this service.

We recommend that you hire a certified industrial hygienist (CIH). Certified industrial hygienists have to demonstrate their knowledge and experience in assessing exposures in order to become certified. By hiring a CIH, or someone closely supervised by a CIH, you will be more likely to obtain a high quality survey and report. See *Resources* on back for information on contacting Cal/OSHA Consultation or getting a copy of the AIHA list.

### What should I look for in an air monitoring report?

Regardless of who does your air monitoring, the person should provide you a report of the results that:

- Identifies the individual being monitored.
- Describes in detail what the individual was doing during the monitoring.
- Describes what protective equipment the individual was wearing (e.g., type of respirator, special clothing).
- Describes any local exhaust ventilation (or other engineering or process control) that was in operation during the monitoring.
- Provides a copy of the report from the analytical laboratory with the amount of lead measured in each sample collected and the sampling time.
- Provides the eight-hour time-weighted average (TWA) for each person sampled.
- Identifies any exposures at or above the Cal/OSHA limits.
- Makes recommendations for exposure control measures, if needed.

Measuring the amount of lead in the air employees breathe can provide you with important information on employee lead exposure. Make sure that you get the information you need by talking to the person doing the monitoring beforehand about what will be in their report.

## Resources

For the **Cal/OSHA Consultation Service** office nearest you:

(800) 963-9424 (toll-free in California) or

[Consultation Service website](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation_offices.html) ([https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation\\_offices.html](https://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/consultation_offices.html))

For a **list of industrial hygiene consultants** from the American Industrial Hygiene Association (AIHA), visit the [AIHA website](http://www.aiha.org) ([www.aiha.org](http://www.aiha.org)). Click on “*Consultants Listing*” under “*Access to Information*” on the side navigation bar.

Note: Mention of any company name or product does not imply endorsement by the California Department of Public Health.



### Occupational Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Occupational Health Branch  
850 Marina Bay Parkway  
Building P, Third Floor  
Richmond, CA 94804  
(510) 620-5757  
(510) 620-5743 fax  
<http://www.cdph.ca.gov/programs/ohb>

### Workplace Lead Helpline

Toll-free in California (866) 627-1587  
CA Relay Service (800) 735-2929



Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

Kim Belshé, Secretary  
Health and Human Services Agency

Mark B Horton, MD, MPH, Director  
California Department of Public Health

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