

the safety, sanitary, and factory inspection laws of a State in which the work, or part thereof, is performed will be considered prima facie evidence of compliance with the safety and health requirements of the Act and of any contract subject thereto, and it shall be sufficient unless rebutted or overcome by a preponderance of evidence of a failure to comply with any applicable safety and health rules contained in this part.

(2) Every investigator shall have technical competence in safety, industrial hygiene, or both as may be appropriate, in the matters under investigation.

(c) [Reserved]

(d) The standards expressed in this part 50-204 are for application to ordinary employment situations; compliance with them shall not relieve anyone from the obligation to provide protection for the health and safety of his employees in unusual employment situations. Neither do such standards purport to describe all of the working conditions which are unsanitary or hazardous or dangerous to the health and safety of employees. Where such other working conditions may be found to be unsanitary or hazardous or dangerous to the health and safety of employees, professionally accepted safety and health practices will be used.

(e) Compliance with the standards expressed in this part 50-204 is not intended, and shall not be deemed to relieve anyone from any other obligation he may have to protect the health and safety of his employees, arising from sources other than the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, such as State, local law or collective bargaining agreement.

[34 FR 7946, May 20, 1969, as amended at 36 FR 9868, May 29, 1971]

#### § 50-204.1a Variances.

(a) Variances from standards in this part may be granted in the same circumstances in which variances may be granted under sections 6(b)(6)(A) or 6(d) of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655). The procedures for the granting of variances and for related relief under this part are those published in part

1905 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations.

(b) Any requests for variances shall also be considered requests for variances under the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and any variance from a standard which is contained in this part and which is incorporated in part 1910 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, shall be deemed a variance from the standard under both the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In accordance with the requirements of § 1954.3(d)(1)(i) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, variance actions taken under State provisions under a State occupational safety and health plan approved under section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 with regard to State standards found to be at least as effective as the comparable Federal standards contained in this part and incorporated in part 1910 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, shall be deemed a variance action from the standard under both the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

[36 FR 9868, May 29, 1971, as amended at 40 FR 25452, June 16, 1975]

### Subpart B—General Safety and Health Standards

#### § 50-204.2 General safety and health standards.

(a) Every contractor shall protect the safety and health of his employees by complying with the standards described in the subparagraphs of this paragraph whenever a standard deals with an occupational safety or health subject or issue involved in the performance of the contract.

(1) U.S. Department of Labor—Title 29 CFR—

Part 1501—Safety and Health Regulations for Ship Repairing.  
Part 1502—Safety and Health Regulations for Shipbuilding.  
Part 1503—Safety and Health Regulations for Shipbreaking.  
Part 1504—Safety and Health Regulations for Longshoring.  
Part 1910—Subpart C through Subpart S (national consensus standards).

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(2) U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines.

(i) In Chapter I of Title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, the standards requiring safe and healthful working conditions or surroundings in:

Subchapter B—Respiratory Protective Apparatus; Tests for Permissibility; Fees.

Subchapter C—Explosives and Related Articles; Tests for Permissibility and Suitability.

Subchapter D—Electrical Equipment, Lamps, Methane Detectors; Tests for Permissibility; Fees.

Subchapter O—Coal Mine Health and Safety.

(ii) In Chapter II of Title 30 the standards requiring safe and healthful working conditions or surroundings in:

Part 211—Coal-Mining Operating and Safety Regulations.

Part 216—Operating and Safety Regulations Governing the Mining of Coal in Alaska.

Part 221—Oil and Gas Operating Regulations.

Part 231—Operating and Safety Regulations Governing the Mining of Potash; Oil Shale, Sodium, and Phosphate; Sulphur; and Gold, Silver, or Quicksilver; and Other Nonmetallic Minerals, Including Silica Sand.

(3) U.S. Department of Transportation: 49 CFR parts 171-179 and 14 CFR part 103 Hazardous material regulation—Transportation of compressed gases.

(4) U.S. Department of Agriculture Respiratory Devices for Protection against Certain Pesticides—ARS-33-76-2.

(b) Information concerning the applicability of the standards prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section may be obtained from the following offices:

(1) Office of the Bureau of Labor Standards, U.S. Department of Labor, Railway Labor Building, Washington, DC 20210.

(2) The regional and field offices of the Bureau of Labor Standards which are listed in the U.S. Government Organization Manual, 1970-71 edition at p. 324.

(c) In applying the safety and health standards referred to in paragraph (a) of this section the Secretary may add to, strengthen or otherwise modify any standards whenever he considers that the standards do not adequately protect the safety and health of employees

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as required by the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act.

[34 FR 7946, May 20, 1969, as amended at 36 FR 9868, May 29, 1971]

**§ 50-204.3 Material handling and storage.**

(a) Where mechanical handling equipment is used, sufficient safe clearances shall be allowed for aisles, at loading docks, through doorways and wherever turns or passage must be made. Aisles and passageways shall be kept clear and in good repair, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard. Permanent aisles and passageways shall be appropriately marked.

(b) Storage of material shall not create a hazard. Bags, containers, bundles, etc. stored in tiers shall be stacked, blocked, interlocked and limited in height so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapse.

(c) Storage areas shall be kept free from accumulation of materials that constitute hazards from tripping, fire, explosion, or pest harborage. Vegetation control will be exercised when necessary.

(d) Proper drainage shall be provided.

(e) Clearance signs to warn of clearance limits shall be provided.

(f) Derail and/or bumper blocks shall be provided on spur railroad tracks where a rolling car could contact other cars being worked, enter a building, work or traffic area.

(g) Covers and/or guard rails shall be provided to protect personnel from the hazards of open pits, tanks, vats, ditches, etc.

[34 FR 7946, May 20, 1969; 35 FR 1015, Jan. 24, 1970]

**§ 50-204.4 Tools and equipment.**

Each employer shall be responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees, including tools and equipment which may be furnished by employees.

**§ 50-204.5 Machine guarding.**

(a) One or more methods of machine guarding shall be provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, in going nip points, rotating parts, flying