



*The Paint Post*

## **COVID-19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave Relief Grant Program Launched**

After much anticipation, The California Small Business and Nonprofit COVID-19 Relief Grant Program (to pay for COVID -19 Supplemental Paid Sick Leave) is now taking applications. The program was funded by the State of California in the Budget Act of 2022 (AB-178) and authorized through Assembly Bill 152 in September 2022.

The website for the program has been officially launched and is now taking applications. Please visit [www.caspsl.com](http://www.caspsl.com) to learn more about the program and to apply.

Eligible contractors are encouraged to get their grant applications in immediately, as we strongly believe the program will be oversubscribed.

[Click Here for More Information](#)



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For any questions, please reach out to Deveney Pula at her \*new\* email address - [dpula@thewpcca.com](mailto:dpula@thewpcca.com).



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## **Action Alert: Union Construction Industry Urged to Oppose Proposed Lead Standards**

Cal/OSHA Proposed Lead Standards Pose Significant Burden to Contractors & Construction Workers

### **Background:**

Cal/OSHA Standards Board has [proposed changes](#) to the “California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 1532.1” related to Lead. The Division of Occupational Safety and Health has framed the proposal as necessary to be in compliance with Federal OSHA regulations. However, the proposed regulatory changes include several provisions that go far beyond current Federal requirements. Cal/OSHA’s proposed changes would reduce the lead Action Level (AL) from 30 to 2 micrograms per cubic meter of air and the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) from 50 to 10 micrograms per cubic meter of air. These extremely low thresholds raise fundamental questions about necessity, attainability, and practicality. They also present serious financial harm to the construction industry and trigger intrusive actions on workers.

### **The Negative Impacts and Unintended Consequences of Proposed Lead Standards Revisions:**

The proposed revisions to the Lead in Construction Standard, Construction Safety Orders, 8CCR 1532.1 will present **significant costs to contractors for compliance and invasive medical and privacy requirements for workers without any evidence of being necessary to protect worker safety.** [Click here for additional details on the impact to industry.](#)

**TAKE ACTION: Union construction industry urged to oppose the current version of the proposed lead standards regulations by placing the letter below on their letterhead and mailing it to the Cal/OSHA Standards Board.**

**Mail your letter today:**

**PLACE ON YOUR LETTERHEAD**

**DATE**

The Honorable David Thomas, Chair  
Cal/OSHA Standards Board  
2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 350  
Sacramento, CA 95833

Re: Opposition to Proposed General Industry and Construction Lead Standards

Dear Chair Thomas,

On behalf of [Insert Your Company/Organization](#), I am writing in opposition to the Cal/OSHA Standards Board proposed changes to the California Code of Regulations

related to lead in construction.

The negative Impacts and unintended consequences the proposed revisions to the Lead in Construction Standard (Construction Safety Orders, 8CCR 1532.1) will present significant costs to contractors for compliance and invasive medical and privacy infringing requirements for workers, without any evidence of being necessary to protect worker safety.

The proposed lead regulations would lead to dramatic cost increases for contractors of all sizes. The frequent blood lead level (BLL) testing, the requirement to provide portable “decontamination showers” on job sites (which employees who are “presumed” to be doing lead work above the PEL will be required to use after completion of work), and the record-keeping mandates, in addition to other requirements, will significantly drive-up construction costs. Many contractors will incur costs in the hundreds of thousands of dollars or more to comply. Larger companies could incur costs in the millions. Small contractors, including DBE, DVBE, and women-owned businesses, will be most negatively impacted, with many being put out of business by the untenable cost increases.

In addition, the proposed Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) and Action Levels (AL) are so low that nearly all types of construction work will trigger compliance. This new regulation will impact hundreds of thousands of construction workers, across all building and construction trades, requiring workers to be BLL tested frequently. Even infrequent tasks will require medical surveillance (employee physical exams) and for employees to undergo pre-exposure BLL testing before the project begins. The frequent BLL testing of construction workers and the required reporting and data record keeping of private health information to the California Department of Public Health is extremely intrusive to workers lives and privacy.

Further, the proposed changes are unnecessary. The Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) has not shown that the current lead health and safety standards are failing to protect workers and that there is a serious and immediate issue within the industry that warrants such a drastic, costly and invasive change to the current standards.

In closing, because the proposed lead standard revisions will significantly negatively impact construction companies and their workers, I believe more analysis is needed, including demonstrating that the extreme reduction in PELs is necessary and backed by science.

For these reasons we are opposed to the proposed revisions to the Lead in Construction Standard.

Sincerely,

**YOUR NAME & TITLE**

[Click Here to Alert the Governor to your Opposition on our Grassroots Action Page](#)

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## July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Wage Schedules

Effective July 1, 2023, the Market Recovery Dues stated on the Basic Commercial Painters / Industrial Painters Wage Charts have been changed to Industry Expansion Dues.

Please note the LMCC breakdown on the Prevailing Wage is missing the LMCI / LMP fund on page 2 in the previous attachment.

The corrected Paint Wage Schedules for July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2024 can be found below.

[View the July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 MLA Wage Rates here.](#)

[View the July 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024 Prevailing Wage Rates here.](#)

Click Here to View the Wage Rate Sheets on our Website

## Independence Day Holiday Reminder

Per the MLA, double time shall be paid for Independence Day Holiday observed on **Tuesday, July 4, 2023**.

*More information can be found in article 12, section 3 of the MLA.*

Click Here to View the MLA on our Website

## Upcoming Events

**26**  
JULY

### Construction Contracts 101 Webinar Series: Public Works Remedies

**Time:** 11:00am – 12:00pm PST | **Location:** Via Zoom

This 2 part webinar series on Construction Contracts will provide an overview on

construction contracts and means to mitigate risks for contractors and subcontractors engaging in public and private works. Join our part 1 webinar on Public Works Remedies presented by Peter Ryan, Esq. at Flores Ryan LLP.  
*More Details TBD.*

*RSVP required. To RSVP, please email Rowanne Khafagy at [rkhafagy@thewpcca.com](mailto:rkhafagy@thewpcca.com)*

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*RSVP required. To RSVP, please email Rowanne Khafagy at [rkhafagy@thewpcca.com](mailto:rkhafagy@thewpcca.com)*

## **IUPAT Helping Hand**



WORKING TOGETHER  
TO SAVE LIVES

Working in the building and construction trades is a challenging career. There are high productivity demands on the workforce to meet deadlines, as well as working conditions that can often be an extreme danger if strict safety guidelines aren't followed.

Yet, there are other risks construction workers face in the industry – suicide and substance use disorder.

[iupathelpinghand.org](http://iupathelpinghand.org) offers guidance for help and resources to share on the job.

Click Here to Learn  
More



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## DIR Contractor Registration Renewal

All contractors who bid and perform on public works projects in California need to complete or renew registrations with the Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) by June 30, 2023. As a reminder, contractors must meet the following requirements to register.

- Have workers' compensation coverage for any employees and only use subcontractors who are registered public works contractors;
- Have a license with the CSLB;
- Not have any delinquent unpaid wage or penalty assessments owed to any employee or enforcement agency; and
- Not be under federal or state debarment.

Contractors are able to register or renew for one, two or three fiscal years (July 1st - June 30th) for a fee of \$400, \$800 or \$1,200. [Click here](#) to go the contractor registration webpage.

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