



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

AUG 13 2019

Dear Certified Firm:

On June 21, 2019, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a rule revising the Dust-Lead Hazard Standards (DLHS) from 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for floors and 250 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ for window sills, to 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$ and 100 $\mu\text{g}/\text{ft}^2$, respectively. EPA is notifying firms certified by EPA to conduct Lead-Based Paint (LBP) Activities, i.e., LBP inspections, risk assessments and abatements, of the effect of this rule on their work. As a result of this revision, evaluation firms will need to ensure their risk assessors compare dust sampling results for floors and window sills to the new, lower DLHS from this rule. Sampling results above a new hazard standard will indicate that a dust-lead hazard is present on the surfaces tested. In addition, abatement firms may be called upon to conduct more projects to permanently eliminate LBP hazards as a result of these lower DLHS. However, this revision does not affect the existing dust-lead clearance levels, which are being evaluated under a separate rulemaking. The final rule does not change any other risk assessment requirements. EPA's revisions to the DLHS do not retroactively compel actions, but EPA encourages firms to check with their state and local agencies with LBP programs as they may require actions based on the revised DLHS. For further information, please see the following URL:

- <https://www.epa.gov/lead/hazard-standards-lead-paint-dust-and-soil-tsca-section-403>

EPA administers the LBP program where states, tribes or territories are not authorized by EPA to operate their own lead abatement programs. If your firm works in a state, territory or tribe that does not have an authorized LBP Activities program, EPA's revised DLHS will take effect on January 6, 2020. These states include Alaska, Arizona, Florida, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, South Carolina, South Dakota and Wyoming. In addition, EPA administers the LBP Activities program in the territories of American Samoa, Guam, Northern Marianas and Virgin Islands as well as most tribal lands.

In states, territories and tribes with authorized LBP Activities programs, revised DLHS will take effect when those states, territories and tribes revise their LBP Activities programs to be at least as protective as EPA's revised DLHS. This must occur no later than January 6, 2022. The URL below provides a list of authorized LBP Activities programs and links to their websites. With this information, one can identify state contact information in order for your firm to monitor the progress of the state, territory or tribe's program revision in which your firm conducts work:

- <https://www.epa.gov/lead/lead-based-paint-activities-professionals#authorized>

If you have any questions regarding this revision, please contact John Yowell at (202) 564-1213.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michelle Price". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Michelle Price, Chief
Lead, Heavy Metals and Organics Branch
National Program Chemicals Division
Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics