ABSTRACT

Purpose: The purpose of this Notice is to establish a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) to reduce the potential for employee exposure to toxic metals, solvents, and occupational noise during aircraft maintenance, including repair and refurbishment.

Scope: This Notice applies to the establishments within the Englewood Area Office’s jurisdiction in the NAICS codes listed in this directive.

Reference: OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-0001, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Program (LEPs), November 10, 1999.

Cancellations: None

State Impact: None

Action Offices: Englewood Area Office

Originating Office: Englewood Area Office

Contact: Assistant Regional Administrator for Federal-State Operations
Cesar Chavez Memorial Building
1244 Speer Blvd, Suite 551
Denver, CO 80204
(720) 264-6566

By and Under the Authority of:

__________________________
Gregory J. Baxter
Regional Administrator, VIII
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This Notice describes policies and procedures for implementing a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) to identify and reduce or eliminate the workplace incidence of occupational noise-induced hearing loss; exposure to toxic chemical vapors and heavy metals.
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I. **Purpose:** This Notice describes policies and procedures for implementing a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) for conducting programmed inspections of Aircraft Support and Maintenance Industries. The inspection program will focus on establishments within the NAICS codes listed below.

This LEP consists primarily of two elements. The first element is an outreach component that will raise awareness of the hazards associated with exposure to high levels of noise and toxic chemicals. Outreach will continue throughout the duration of this LEP. The second element is an inspection targeting initiative designed to reduce employee exposure to noise and toxic chemicals, focusing primarily on assessing employees’ exposures to chemical and physical hazards, evaluating the use of personal protective equipment, and reviewing the employer’s safety and health programs.

II. **Scope:** This Notice applies to the Aircraft Support and Maintenance Industries within the Englewood Area Office’s jurisdiction under the following NAICS codes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAICS</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>336411</td>
<td>This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in one or more of the following: (1) manufacturing or assembling complete aircraft; (2) developing and making aircraft prototypes; (3) aircraft conversion; and (4) complete aircraft overhaul and rebuilding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>336412</td>
<td>This U.S. industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in one or more of the following: (1) manufacturing aircraft engines and engine parts; (2) developing and making prototypes of aircraft engines and engine parts; (3) aircraft propulsion system conversion; and (4) aircraft propulsion systems overhaul and rebuilding.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>441228</td>
<td>Used Aircraft Dealers and Aircraft Dealers.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>488190</td>
<td>Testing Services, Inspection Services, and Maintenance and Repair Services (except factory conversion, factory overhaul, factory rebuilding)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>611512</td>
<td>Flight Training Schools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

III. **References:**

A. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-159, Field Operations Manual (FOM), October 1, 2015, or the most recent version at the time of the inspection opening conference.

B. OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-001, Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Program (LEPs), November 10, 1999.

C. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-025, Scheduling System for Programmed Inspections, January 4, 1995.

D. OSHA Instruction CSP 03-02-003, OSHA Strategic Partnership Program for Worker Safety and Health, November 6, 2013.
E. October 18, 2002, OSHA Memorandum: Annual Evaluation of Local Emphasis Programs.


H. December 3, 2014, OSHA Memorandum: Procedures for Local and Regional Emphasis Programs.

I. OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-051, Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, May 28, 1998; Appendix A, January 29, 2016, or the most recent version at date of inspection opening conference.


S. OSHA CPL 03-00-017, National Emphasis Program - Occupational Exposure to Isocyanates 06/20/2013.

T. OSHA CPL 03-00-009, National Emphasis Program on Lead 08/14/2008.
IV. **Expiration Date:** This LEP expires on September 30, 2017.

V. **Action:** OSHA compliance personnel shall follow the procedures contained in this instruction when conducting outreach and enforcement activities.

VI. **Background:** The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates there are approximately 137,000 aircraft and avionics mechanics and technicians in the United States (BLS, 2015). Of those workers, approximately 87% are aircraft mechanics. The Bureau of Labor Statistics Outlook Handbook for Aircraft and Avionics Equipment Mechanics and Technicians states, “Aircraft and avionics equipment mechanics and technicians experience rates of injuries and illnesses that are higher than the national average. Mechanics and technicians often lift heavy objects, handle dangerous chemicals, or operate large power tools. They may work on scaffolds or ladders, and noise and vibrations are common, especially when engines are being tested.” (BLS, 2015).

Toxic metals, solvents, and other chemicals are a health hazard to those workers exposed to them. Occupational noise resulting in hearing loss has been recorded in aircraft mechanics. A study of 327 Swedish aircraft maintenance workers exposed to noise levels ranging from 70-91 dBA noted that 41% of workers suffered hearing loss of 20 dB or more. (Lindgren et. al, 2011). Incidence rates among aircraft workers are higher than private industry rates for 2012 – 2014. (See Table 1.1 below) There is also evidence that when combined with ototoxic solvents such as methyl ethyl ketone or toluene, exposure to high noise levels can lead to greater degrees of hearing loss. Results of a study of 542 aircraft workers showed that workers exposed to ototoxic solvents and noise had a higher prevalence of hearing loss than those exposed to either noise or solvents alone (Kim et. al., 2005).

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) has published a Health Hazard Evaluation of aircraft maintenance workers and the child of a worker who spent time in an aircraft repair and flight school in Colorado. While workers were asymptomatic for lead related illness, blood levels of lead in workers and the child were elevated, and air sampling results for spark plug cleaning were close to the OSHA PEL for lead. Lead surface levels were also elevated. Aircraft fuel containing tetraethyl lead is still widely used in small airplanes.

Occupational exposure to methylene chloride and other solvents in aircraft painting operations has been measured and shown to be elevated in aircraft workers (Vincent et. al.)

According to the U.S. Department of Labor/Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), there were a combined total of 3,600 occupational illnesses reported in aircraft support workers under NAICS 33641, 336412, and 4881 in 2014. Occupational injuries in NAICS 36641, 366412, and 4881 totaled greater than 16,000.

Incidence rates for specific illnesses in the NAICS identified in the scope of this EP are summarized in Table 1.1 Incidence rates per 10,000 full-time workers:
Table 1.1 Incidence rates per 10,000 full time workers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>NAICS</th>
<th>Total Cases</th>
<th>Skin Diseases</th>
<th>Respiratory Conditions</th>
<th>Poisonings</th>
<th>Hearing Loss</th>
<th>All other illness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>336411</td>
<td>94.4</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>.9</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>78.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>336412</td>
<td>16.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>10.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44122</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4881</td>
<td>9.7</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6115</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private Industry</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>2.6</td>
<td>1.5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>336411</td>
<td>101.7</td>
<td>3.7</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>12.2</td>
<td>84.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>336412</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>4.2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.6</td>
<td>15.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44122</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4881</td>
<td>23.1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6115</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private Industry</td>
<td>16.6</td>
<td>2.8</td>
<td>1.4</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>2.0</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>336411</td>
<td>61.0</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>.8</td>
<td>.4</td>
<td>6.9</td>
<td>47.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>336412</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>15.8</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>44122</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4881</td>
<td>20.8</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>3.6</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8.1</td>
<td>7.9</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6115</td>
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<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Private Industry</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>2.3</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>.2</td>
<td>1.9</td>
<td>9.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Reference: www.bls.gov

Between 2005 and 2016, Area Offices in Region VIII conducted 28 inspections of aircraft manufacturing facilities, flight schools, and maintenance shops under the NAICS defined in the scope of this Notice. Forty-seven (47) serious and four other-than-serious citations were issued for violations of OSHA standards, including but not limited to, respiratory protection, lead surface contamination, and overexposure to hexavalent chromium and methylene chloride.

VII. Inspection Scheduling and Site Selection: The procedures and the site randomization protocols outlined in the November 12, 2014, OSHA Memorandum: Establishments – Targeting Lists for Emphasis Programs will be followed. The Office of Statistical Analysis (OSA) will provide the master list and the area office will make deletions as outlined in sections A and B, below.

A. Establishments that have received a comprehensive inspection within the previous 36 months of the creation of the current inspection cycle will be deleted from the list.
B. The Area Office may delete an establishment if it is determined that:

1. The establishment is a residence.

2. The establishment is not in the scope of the NEP (e.g., the establishment is clearly conducting business other than that covered by the LEP).

3. There is no evidence that the facility exists (e.g., no phone or internet listing; no registration with the Secretary of State; Google Earth or Street View shows conclusively that the business is non-existent.)

The criteria used to delete any establishment must be fully documented by the Area Office.

C. In the event a cycle is not completed on or before expiration of this Notice, the cycle will be extended into the new fiscal year, provided this Notice is renewed. The outstanding cycle will be completed by each Area Office before establishments are selected from the new master list. If the Notice is not renewed, the outstanding cycle is effectively cancelled and the Area Office will not conduct inspections on the remaining establishments within the cycle.

VIII. Inspection Procedures: The conduct of inspections shall adhere to the following:

A. Scope: Inspections under this LEP will be classified as a “Health” Inspection and focus on the health hazards outlined in this notice. Inspections will be conducted by appropriately trained CSHOs. Apparent safety violations noted during a health inspection of an establishment exempted from programmed safety inspections shall not be cited or referred for later inspection unless the violations create an imminent danger. Inspection procedures outlined in the FOM, OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-159, will be followed.

B. Safety and Health Considerations for CSHOs: Inspections under this LEP are to be conducted by CSHOs who have received the necessary training on the LEP and the hazards associated with the Aircraft Support and Maintenance Industries. The Area Director will ensure that appropriate training is provided to the CSHOs. Prior to commencing the walk around portion of the inspection, the CSHO shall request a safety briefing of the facility. Personal protective equipment such as respirators, gloves, eye protection, hearing protection, steel-toed shoes, etc., will be utilized based on the information given.

C. Coverage: At the opening conference, the CSHO will determine if the employer performs operations as covered in this LEP and as described under the applicable NAICS code.
IX. Outreach: At least 90 days prior to commencing inspection activity under this LEP, the Regional and Area Office will conduct outreach activities intended to reach as many employers and stakeholders as is practicable. Outreach activities will be conducted to raise awareness of the hazards associated with aircraft maintenance and repair operations and to inform stakeholders and employers of the elements of the LEP. The Area Office will conduct mailings to stakeholders within the Area Office’s jurisdiction to raise awareness of the hazards associated with aircraft maintenance. The Area Office will encourage the stakeholders to participate in training, assist in the dissemination of information from this LEP, and participate in any other outreach activity where stakeholder participation would benefit the program. Stakeholders may include aircraft repair shops, body shops, testing and inspection services, dealers, flight schools, hangar and airport operations, engine and aircraft overhaul shops, manufacturer’s representatives, industry periodical publishers, safety and health consultants, safety councils, and the Aircraft Mechanics Fraternal Association.

The U.S. DOL Office of Public Affairs will issue News Releases and public service announcements for any training sessions, partnership agreements, or other significant outreach activity. The Regional Office will work with the Office of Public Affairs to develop an article with a description of this LEP for inclusion in industry publications.

X. Partnerships: Partnerships may be developed with the covered employers in accordance with OSHA Instruction CSP 03-02-003, OSHA Strategic Partnership Program for Worker Safety and Health, November 6, 2013.

XI. OIS Coding: The following will address only the changes or additions to OSHA Information System (OIS) coding procedures for inspections conducted under this LEP:

A. The OIS Inspection Form shall be coded as "AIRCRAFT" in the Local Emphasis Program block and as "Programmed Planned" in the Initiating Type block. Inspections under this LEP will be coded as “Health” inspections in the “Inspection Category” blocks unless a safety inspection referral is made, in which case the inspection shall be coded as “Safety.”

B. Inspections which are initiated as a result of a complaint, referral, or fatality/catastrophe shall be coded as “AIRCRAFT” in the Local Emphasis Program block and as the appropriate “unprogrammed” activity in the Initiating Type block, regardless of whether they are listed on the current cycle.

C. Inspections that fall within any regional or national emphasis programs or other national initiatives should be coded in OIS.

XII. Program Evaluation: No later than October 31, 2017, the Area Office will provide an evaluation of this LEP to the Regional Office. The Regional Office will provide the National Office with one evaluation of this LEP. At a minimum, the evaluation should respond to the requirements of CPL 04-00-001, Section D, Appendix A, as well as the Directorate of Enforcement Programs memorandum dated October 18, 2002 for Annual Evaluations of Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs). In addition, the
following factors should also be included:

A. The number of inspections where aircraft maintenance operations were evaluated, the number of citations issued, and the percentage of violations designated as serious, willful, or repeat.

B. Annual number of fatalities related to aircraft maintenance operations.

C. The number of complaint inspections concerning aircraft maintenance operations conducted annually.

D. The number of employees covered.

E. Abatement measures implemented, if novel and innovative.

DISTRIBUTION: Directorate of Enforcement Programs
 Regional Office of the Solicitor
Dear Employer:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is developing a Local Emphasis Program (LEP) focusing on health hazards related to aircraft maintenance and repair in the following NAICS codes within the jurisdiction of the Englewood Area Office:

- 336411 Aircraft Overhauling
- 336412 Aircraft Engine Overhauling and Aircraft Engine Rebuilding
- 441228 Used Aircraft Dealers and Aircraft Dealers
- 488190 Testing Services, Inspection Services, Maintenance and Repair Services (except factory conversion, factory overhaul, factory rebuilding)
- 611512 Flight Training Schools

Workers engaged in maintenance, repair, rebuilding, or painting of aircraft or aircraft parts may be exposed to harmful levels of toxic metals, including lead, arsenic, and cadmium. Other hazards include exposure to various solvents such as bromopropane and methylene chloride, isocyanates during painting, hexavalent chromium during paint removal, and exposure to hazardous noise levels. Employees exposed to harmful levels of these chemicals may experience health effects including, but not limited to, nausea, fatigue, central nervous system dysfunction, neuropathy, organ failure, asthma, anemia, and cancer. Exposure to hazardous noise levels in the workplace may result in tinnitus and hearing loss. The goal of this LEP is to reduce or eliminate harmful exposures to workers during aircraft maintenance operations.

As a result of this LEP, the Englewood OSHA office will be conducting inspections of workplaces involved in activities defined by any of the above-listed NAICS codes, including flight schools and aircraft maintenance and repair shops. We are notifying you of our intent to conduct these inspections because your company may be covered by this LEP.

OSHA continues to emphasize compliance assistance and to focus on prevention of occupational injuries and illnesses. OSHA has several guidance documents to assist employers in controlling exposures to hazardous chemicals and noise.

The following documents may be of assistance in evaluating and controlling these hazards:

- [https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3680.pdf](https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3680.pdf) OSHA Quick Card on Take-Home Lead
- [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/metalsheavy/](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/metalsheavy/) OSHA’s Toxic Metals Safety and Health Topics Page
- [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hexavalentchromium/index.html](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/hexavalentchromium/index.html) OSHA’s Hexavalent Chromium Safety and Health Topics Page
- [https://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/1bromopropane_hazard_alert.html](https://www.osha.gov/dts/hazardalerts/1bromopropane_hazard_alert.html) OSHA Hazard Alert Letter on 1-Bromopropane
- [https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/methylenechloride/](https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/methylenechloride/) OSHA’s Safety and Health Topics Page for Methylene Chloride
In addition to protecting employees from potential exposure to hazardous chemicals and noise, OSHA strongly encourages all employers to develop a comprehensive safety and health program to identify and control all other potential hazards at the work site. You can find information on this topic at the following website address: http://www.osha.gov/SLTC/etools/safetyhealth/index.html.

OSHA’s On-site Consultation Program offers free and confidential safety and occupational health advice to small and medium-sized businesses in all states across the country, with priority given to high-hazard worksites. On-site Consultation services are separate from enforcement and do not result in penalties or citations. To find out more about OSHA’s Consultation Program, visit the web page or call (970) 491-6151.

If you have questions about any of the referenced resources or need assistance locating additional information on the OSHA web site, please feel free to contact our office at (303) 843-4500. Your commitment to employee safety and health is appreciated.

Sincerely,

Dave Nelson
Area Director, Englewood Area Office