

# California Industrial Hygiene Council

## July 17 2008 Update

### **California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC)--Mission:**

The California Industrial Hygiene Council (CIHC) was founded in 1990 and designated the AIHA State Governmental Affairs Organization in California. It is comprised of 10 official Board members, made up of 2-3 volunteering Directors from each California AIHA Local Section, and supported by the legislative group Sacramento Advocacy.

The CIHC objectives are several:

- Establish a legislative presence in the State Capitol through professional representation
- Keep the industrial hygiene professional intact by opposing any further erosion or limitation of practice by legislation or regulation
- Seek recognition in statute defining, recognizing, and protecting the profession of industrial hygiene
- Provide sound scientific and technological input to the legislative and regulatory process

### **July 17, 2008 Conference Call Highlights:**

The CIHC convened by phone on July 17, 2008 to discuss a number of topics impacting California's AIHA Local Sections, its membership and practice. Highlights include the following:

- Plans for the 2008 CIHC Conference are well underway. This coming year's Conference will be held on December 8-10, 2008 at the Westgate Hotel in San Diego. Themes have been identified, sessions are being organized and speakers recruited. Half day segments are devoted to a variety of subjects, including regulatory/legislative issues; bioterrorism; global climate change & renewable energy alternatives; sustainability; the exposure limit crisis; and accident investigation. Formal announcements and registration will be available late summer 2008.
- As regards regulations, Ca/OSHA is proposing changes to 5155, the Airborne Contaminants Standard. The changes include the addition of skin and respiratory system sensitization notations to Table AC-1 and require medical surveillance under certain circumstances, which would include completion of a questionnaire by the affected employee and review by a physician. Ca/OSHA has requested comments by July 31. CIHC is analyzing the proposed changes and will submit comments.
- Cal-OSHA issued a seemingly sudden proposed standard to address the control of airborne infectious diseases and diseases that can be contracted from animals (zoonotic). A group of biosafety experts is meeting during the week of July 28 to

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review the proposed standard and the implications. The biosafety group may request that CIHC submit comments and appear at the August 21 Standards Board meeting.

- AB 515, Occupational Safety & Health PELs, is sitting in suspense. A hearing is scheduled for August 4<sup>th</sup>, and this bill may come out of suspense on August 6<sup>th</sup>.
- AB 2796 (Nava), the Good Samaritan Bill, will be heard by the Senate Appropriations Committee on August 4<sup>th</sup>. If it passes Appropriations, the bill would go to the Senate for concurrence, then the Governor for signature. The outlook is optimistic. AB 2796 would amend the State Emergency Services Act so as to encourage Industrial Hygienists and other health and safety professionals to volunteer and assist during states of emergency without fear of suit.
- SB 1386 Carbon Monoxide appears that it will return to the Assembly for concurrence, then onto the Governor for final approval.
- The CIHC Operating Procedures were endorsed by all CA local sections and finalized. They will be posted to the CIHC web site.
- The “Green Chemistry Initiative” is being cited as one of the most significant “toxics” regulatory developments in years. Green Chemistry, citing the failure of federal policies to regulate chemicals comprehensively, is a Cal EPA strategy to greatly improve chemical information, regulatory oversight, and support for green chemistry research, development, technical assistance and education. It essentially places the European Economic Union’s (EEUs) REACH regulations (which require a hazard/risk determination for all chemicals in use) on California’s doorstep. CIHC is exploring ways in which to participate in the regulatory process.
- CIHC’s strategic planning efforts will be taken up at its next meeting. It was suggested that each CIHC Director work with his/her local section officers for input before the September 2008 CIHC meeting.
- The next CIHC meeting is scheduled in San Diego for September 9, 2008.

Regards,  
CIHC Local Section Representatives