

Stark County Safety Council Newsletter

www.starkcountysafetycouncil.org ■ Newsletter Editor ■ Jacqueline Bollas Caldwell, Esq. ■
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STARK COUNTY

SAFETY COUNCIL

A committee of the Canton Regional Chamber of Commerce


The Stark County Safety Council will be collecting Toys for Tots at their December luncheon. If you choose to participate, please bring in a new unwrapped toy to the December meeting. Also donation checks payable to “Toys for Tots” are accepted.



Today's Program November 11, 2010

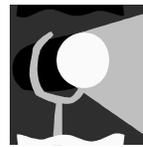
Speaker: Gust Callas, Partner
Black, McCuskey, Souers & Arbaugh, L.P.A.
Dual Certified Specialist in Ohio in Labor & Employment Law and Workers' Compensation Law

Topic: "A LEGAL MINUTE : The area of Employment Law is rapidly changing. Are you up-to-date? Do you know your rights as an employer and the rights of your employees?"

Spotlight Company: GRAINGER®
FOR THE ONES WHO GET IT DONE

To be a spotlight company contact Mark Rossiter
mark.rossiter@anheuser-busch.com

ABOUT THIS MONTH'S SPOTLIGHT COMPANY



Grainger is an industry leader in Maintenance, Repair, and Operations (MRO) supplies headquartered in Lake Forest, IL. We are also the largest distributor of Safety Products in North America. Grainger employs a staff of Regional Program Managers (RPMs) dedicated to the safety category. The RPM group can assist you in product selection and training, and keep you up to date with industry changes related to standards and law. Contact your local Branch or Account Manager for more information.

Akron 330-733-6311 Canton 330-588-9111
Youngstown 330-793-9381 Brooklyn Heights 216-398-1880

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Steve Hanna (Stephen.h.1@bwc.state.oh.us)

Safety Council Mission Statement: To provide a forum for safety and health information, education and networking in Stark County, through leadership, innovation, facilitation, program, and support, in partnership with other public and private organizations.

Issue 11 November

SCSC Members,

The article this month has been provided by Frank Grasso from **Grainger**. I hope you find this information helpful.

Regards,

Susan

Upcoming Changes in Noise Reduction Ratings for Hearing Protectors

By Frank Grasso

For years safety professionals have been choosing hearing protection devices (HPDs) based on the Noise Reduction Rating (NRR) printed on every box. This single number has provided a simple way, in most cases, to differentiate the many HPDs on the market and make choices relative to the noise exposure levels that employees were facing.

In some cases of very noisy workplaces, the application of the NRR proved more difficult as OSHA required a devaluation of the NRR... and NIOSH recommended devaluation based on the type of HPD being used. Concerns about the label value came to light as a result of the complications related to correctly prescribing a safe HPD.

As a result, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be revising how hearing protectors are tested and how they will be labeled.

A two number system.

The most notable change this revision will bring is the new appearance of the NRR label. Instead of one number there will be two. The two numbers will indicate a range that the HPD is rated for.

The higher number will indicate the protection level 1 in 5 trained users will experience. The lower number will indicate the level of protection 4 of 5 trained users will experience and it's the lower number that will most likely be used by OSHA to determine whether the HPD being used is adequate for the exposure. The present NRR rating should fall somewhere between the two numbers.

Moving away from the single NRR rating amplifies (no pun intended) the fact that HPDs have varying degrees of effectiveness on different individuals and that the dual number system should provide for a more effective and realistic hearing conservation program.

The new system's effectiveness will depend on the safety director's willingness to learn as much as possible about the new system and how to apply the ranges given to their applications.

Fit Validation.

With all the proposed benefit of the new labeling system there is still room for error regarding the attenuation achieved by individual users. With this known fact, the only guarantee in obtaining a true protection level is to conduct an individual fit validation. A fit validation documents the real attenuation of a particular HPD on the wearer.

Fit validation systems have been in the market for over a year now and are starting to become the most important component of a comprehensive hearing conservation program.

At this time there is not a set date for the changes to go into effect but we can expect that we may see the new labels sometime in early 2011.

Upcoming Program

December 9, 2010

Stark County Safety Council
Monthly Luncheon Series and Toy Drive
The luncheon will provide a review of 2010 issues and focus on plans and issues for 2011 with the SCSC steering committee and Chairman
Susan Walters

To be a spotlight company contact **Mark Rossiter**
mark.rossiter@anheuser-buch.com

Have a Safe

Thanksgiving!

Upcoming Events

SCSC December Luncheon

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Important items to make note of:

1. **Semi-Annual Reports** are required to maintain your membership with the SCSC. Reports are due July 15th and January 15th each year.
2. **Don't forget to sign-in.** If you do not sign the "sign-in sheet" your company will not receive credit for attending. This could hurt your company's chances of receiving the BWC's discount.
3. **July 1, 2010 began a new 12 month period** for the BWC's rebate program. If your company is eligible, you must attend a minimum of 10 events, with your company's CEO or a senior level manager attending one of these 10, and submit two semi-annual reports. See BWC website for complete rebate details.
4. **Please complete a Program Evaluation Form** following each luncheon meeting. Your input is important.