

Description

OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard addresses the safeguards necessary to protect workers against the health hazards from exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials. Bloodborne pathogens are pathogenic microorganisms that are present in human blood and can cause disease in humans. These pathogens include, but are not limited to, the hepatitis B virus (HBV), the hepatitis C virus (HCV), and the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The majority of at-risk workers are in the healthcare field, but exposures can also occur to workers in general industrial and office settings. It's up to every employer to provide protections for any employees who are occupationally exposed to bloodborne pathogens.

Objectives

After your training program, the trainees should be able to:

- Summarize OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard.
- Discuss the symptoms, epidemiology, and modes of transmission of bloodborne diseases.
- Explain how employees can access the employer's written exposure control plan and a copy of the OSHA standard.
- Describe methods to recognize possible exposure and the methods to control exposures.
- Demonstrate the proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Discuss the hepatitis B vaccine.
- Outline the procedures to follow if an exposure incident occurs.
- Explain post-exposure incident evaluation and follow-up procedures.
- Describe the labels and signs used to identify blood and other potentially infectious materials.

Audience

All employees with occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens need training in OSHA's requirements and the employer's exposure control plan. For example, this might include first aid responders, emergency response team members, or health care workers. This training program can be used for employees who have job duties that put them at risk for exposure to bloodborne pathogens.

Requirements

OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard includes requirements for communication of hazards to employees at 29 CFR 1910.1030(g). The information and training requirements are at 1910.1030(g)(2).

All employees with a potential for exposure must be provided with adequate training and information, including the opportunity for interactive questions and answers with the trainer. Employees must be trained prior to initial exposure to bloodborne pathogens and at least annually thereafter.

The training and information is to include general explanations of:

- OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard.
- The symptoms and epidemiology of bloodborne diseases.
- The modes of transmission.
- The employer's written exposure control plan.
- Methods to recognize possible exposure.
- Exposure control methods.
- Proper use of personal protective equipment (PPE).
- The hepatitis B vaccine.
- Procedures to follow if an exposure incident occurs.
- Post-exposure incident evaluation and follow-up procedures.
- The labels and signs used to identify blood and other potentially infectious materials.

Training records must include dates of training, contents of training sessions, names and qualifications of trainers, and names and job titles of those trained. Records must be retained for three years.