

# New Information from MSA Safety Works

## Regarding EPA Lead Requirements for Remodelers

### Safety Products for Remodelers for Lead Exposure Protection during Renovation, Repair and Painting

Renovation of older structures can create hazardous lead dust and chips within those environments by disturbing lead-based paint. In response to the need to help prevent lead poisoning, in 2008 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a rule requiring use of lead-safe practices, as common renovation activities such as sanding, cutting, and demolition can create serious lead exposure hazards.

As of April 22, 2010, the EPA requires that contractors performing renovation activities that disturb lead-based paint in pre-1978-built homes, child-care facilities, and schools must be certified and must follow specific work practices aimed at preventing lead contamination. Contractors must document compliance with this requirement and provide certification to customers when asked to do so.

Contractors performing work in homes, child-care facilities, schools built before 1978 (the last year in which lead paint was legal for use in painting these structures) must also provide these homeowners, child-care facility owners/operators, schools, and parents/guardians of children under age six attending those facilities with **Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools**. This pamphlet provides basic information regarding lead safety practices when work is performed, and can be downloaded free at [www.msasafetyworks.com/EPAlead](http://www.msasafetyworks.com/EPAlead). Topics covered include choosing a contractor, renovation and repair preparation, certification and training regulations for contractors, and additional lead exposure informational resources.

To obtain EPA certification, renovation contractors must submit an application and fee payment; the EPA has up to 90 days after certification request receipt to approve or disapprove applications. The EPA recommends that contractors take time to understand this ruling, learn to execute lead-safe practices on the job, and clarify procedures with clients.

EPA-recommended tools, supplies, and safety products for remodeling involving lead paint include:

#### Tools and Supplies

- Barriers and signs
- Tape
- Stapler
- Heavy plastic sheeting
- Utility knife or scissors
- Wet/dry sandpaper, sanding sponge
- Misting bottle, pump sprayer
- Chemical stripper
- Power tools with high efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter-equipped vacuum attachments
- Low-temperature heat gun
- Heavy-duty plastic bags
- HEPA vacuum cleaner
- Paper towels or disposable wipes
- Mop and disposable mop heads
- General-purpose cleaner
- Buckets
- Shovel and rake

#### Personal Protective Equipment

- Eyewear (*MSA recommends ANSI-compliant safety glasses or goggles - see below*)
- Painters' hats
- Gloves
- Coveralls
- Disposable shoe covers
- N-100-rated disposable respirators (*MSA recommends P-100 rated respirators - see below*)

The "eyewear" referred to by the EPA comprises safety glasses or goggles compliant to the latest American National Standards Institute Z87.1 standard. If remodelers remove lead paint with chemical strippers, chemical splash goggles (ANSI-compliant goggles with indirect ventilation) must be worn to help prevent chemicals from getting into eyes.

Protective clothing mentioned here helps to protect remodelers and helps to prevent lead from leaving work areas, potentially spreading lead contamination, for example, to workers' homes.

The EPA mentions N-100-rated disposable respirators, which are but one option among many for lead protection, depending upon intended applications. MSA recommends using P-100-rated respirators. The term N-100 denotes the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) air-purifying respirator certification level. NIOSH-approved air-purifying respirators may be certified to various protection levels, as shown here:

Filter Oil Resistance Level	Expected Filter Efficiency Against 0.3 Micron (~300x smaller than human hair diameter) Pore Size Contaminant		
N—NOT Oil Resistant	95—95% efficient	99—99% efficient	100—99.97% efficient
R—Oil Resistant	95—95% efficient	99—99% efficient	100—99.97% efficient
P—Oil Proof	95—95% efficient	99—99% efficient	100—99.97% efficient

Any combination of **letter** (oil resistance level) and **number** (filter efficiency level) can be combined to obtain certified products. Many contractors are familiar with **N-95** certified respirators, as N-95s are by far the most common disposable respirator type used for harmful dust applications that are **not** as toxic as lead. N-95 certified respirators must **NOT** be used against lead, as lead is a very toxic contaminant. Maximum filter efficiency level (100) is required when using an air-purifying respirator against lead.

As is also shown here, respirator filter N-class is the lowest level. N-rated filters must be used for no more than eight hours before disposal and cannot be used for oil vapor protection. The other end of the spectrum concerns P-class filters, which may be used against either oils or non-oils with no time use restriction (beyond that of typical respiratory protection program requirements such as increased breathing resistance) and are considered to be best-in-class. N-class and P-class filters provide the same protection against contaminants that do not contain oil.



N-100 respirators are not approved for use against contaminants that contain oil, as oil can degrade filter performance, reducing respirator efficiency and respiratory protection. MSA recommends P-100 filters if lead containing oil-based paint is disturbed by remodelers (for example, with a heat gun) resulting in aerosolized oil-based paint. Some applications may require use of a supplied-air respirator, depending upon the contaminants generated.

To protect wearers from low-level exposures to chemical strippers and lead paint, wearers should also use respirators with cartridges that have P-100 filters in combination with special charcoal beds to help trap gases generated by chemicals that cannot be stopped by particulate-only filters.

OSHA requires respirator training as part of a complete respiratory protection program. MSA Safety Works provides our customers with

**free on-line training** for our respirators designed for lead protection. MSA on-line training is found at [http://www.msasafetyworks.com/advantage\\_training.html](http://www.msasafetyworks.com/advantage_training.html).

**Eye Protection:** Most typical applications where lead may be disturbed require safety glasses or goggles compliant to the latest ANSI Z87.1 standard. If lead paint is removed with chemical strippers, chemical splash goggles (ANSI-compliant goggles with indirect ventilation) must be worn to help prevent chemicals from getting into eyes.

You may have questions related to protecting yourself from lead exposure; the EPA has designed several brochures to help address these questions. EPA literature can be viewed and downloaded at [www.msasafetyworks.com/leadinfo](http://www.msasafetyworks.com/leadinfo).

**MSA Provides Remodelers/Renovation Contractors with the Right Safety Products for Lead Protection**  
 Make sure to be ready for the EPA's 40 CFR Part 745 Final Rule *Lead: Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP)*.

**Ordering Information**

**Respiratory protection from lead dust:**

Description	MSA Part Number
Toxic Dust Respirator	817664
Toxic Dust Replacement Cartridges	817665



**Respiratory protection from lead dust combined with acid gases or organic vapors:**

Description	MSA Part Number
Multi-Purpose Respirator	817663
Multi-Purpose Replacement Cartridges	817667



**Eye protection**

**For lead dust and impact protection:**

Any of MSA Safety Works' complete line of ANSI-compliant safety glasses. For example:

Description	MSA Part Number
Close-Fitting Safety Glasses	10006315



**For lead dust, chemical splash, and impact protection:**

Choose from MSA Safety Works' complete line of ANSI-compliant chemical splash safety goggles. For example:

Description	MSA Part Number
Chemical Splash Safety Goggles	10031205



**Want More Information?**

For more information on safety products for lead protection, please contact MSA Safety Works at 1-800-969-7562 or visit <http://www.msasafetyworks.com>.

To download EPA pamphlet **Renovate Right: Important Lead Hazard Information for Families, Child Care Providers and Schools**, visit [www.msasafetyworks.com/EPAlead](http://www.msasafetyworks.com/EPAlead). Topics covered include choosing a contractor, renovation and repair preparation, certification and training regulations for contractors, and additional lead exposure informational resources.

**Let MSA Safety Works help you to prepare your customers for the new EPA lead protection requirements!**

**MSA** MSA Safety Works®  
 MSA World Headquarters  
 P.O. Box 426  
 The Safety Company Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0426 U.S.A.  
 Visit us on the Net at: <http://www.msasafetyworks.com>  
 Contact via e-mail at: [info@msasafetyworks.com](mailto:info@msasafetyworks.com)

**1.800.969.7562 Phone**  
**1.800.969.7563 Fax**



**Making The World Safer,  
 One Project At A Time.®**

Bulletin SW-1000-67-MC ©MSA 2010 Printed in U.S.A. 1003(L)  
**NOTE:** This bulletin contains only a general description of MSA products and their potential application. Since each application may vary, the need for, and/or type of, safety equipment may also differ. This bulletin describes only typical product applications. A safety professional should be consulted for specific product application recommendations. While uses, applications, and general performance capabilities are described, under no circumstances should the product be used except by trained and qualified individuals and not until complete and detailed instructions concerning these products have been thoroughly read and understood and the precautions therein set forth followed. Only they contain the complete and detailed information concerning these products.