

## **The Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Standard – A Not-So Distant Blast from the Past**

By: Annette Satterly

Five years ago, the Lead Renovation, Repair and Painting Standard went into effect on April 1, 2010. Under this standard, schools built before December 31, 1978, and “occupied” by children under the age of six years old were required to work with a lead renovator when undertaking projects that might likely disturb the paint, which include projects such as scraping paint, replacing windows, etc.

The majority of the school districts that included a school or schools affected by this Standard elected to have somebody on staff train to become certified in lead renovation. This training provided the district employee the knowledge necessary to follow the protocol set by the standard and to maintain the necessary paperwork. This designation was good for five years. Accordingly, 2015 marks the year that those staff members need to recertify if they wish to remain qualified to do this work.

There are a number of groups in the state offering this training. They are all listed on the EPA’s web page (<http://www2.epa.gov/lead/renovation-repair-and-painting-program>). The classes are offered at random times throughout the year, and the prices vary depending on which group is offering the training. Any district that would like to send someone for the initial training may do so using these same trainers (most of the initial classes are offered for \$200.00).

In addition, these districts need to recertify as a lead firm. All certified renovators must work for a company (district) that is a certified lead firm. To become a certified firm, simply fill out the questionnaire (also offered on the above-listed web page) and mail it and a check for \$300.00 to the EPA at the address listed on the form.

Presently, this standard only affects those grade schools that have children under the age of six who visit the facility 2 times a week for at least 3 hours each time. The affected areas include any area that fits the 6-hour criteria, such as classrooms, gyms, cafeterias, libraries, etc. To err on the side of safety, grade schools built before 1978 have been applying this standard to all areas of the building (inside and out).

The EPA has been lobbying to change the standard. If the change goes through as planned, starting in 2016, the EPA will remove the “child occupied” wording from the standard. This means that any building built before December 31, 1978, will fall under the standard regardless of the age of the building’s occupants. This will also encompass the building in its entirety both inside and out. Hence, if you are in a district with a building fitting this criteria, you may wish to have someone trained (if you do not already have a person in place) to become a certified lead renovator; and, for reasons outlined above, you may also wish to become a certified lead firm. (If the district already has someone trained, that person represents the entire district (firm) and may work in any of the district’s building with this certification.)

There are severe penalties associated with this standard. Please do not get caught unaware. For any additional questions or for further clarification, feel free to contact either Harry or myself. We are both certified lead renovators and would be happy to walk you through the standard.

You can reach either of us at 1-877-667-7392.