

To:
Directors
Prefectural Labour Bureaus

From:
Director
Labour Standards Bureau
Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare
(Official seal imprinted)

Revision of the Guidelines on Prevention of Radiation Hazards for Workers Engaged in Decontamination Works

To prevent radiation hazards for workers engaged in work to decontaminate soil and wastes and for collecting waste, etc. contaminated by radioactive materials, discharged in the accident at the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant of Tokyo Electric Power Company (TEPCO) associated with the Tohoku-Pacific Ocean Earthquake that occurred on 11 March 2011, the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare has enforced the Ordinance on Prevention of Ionizing Radiation Hazards at Works to Decontaminate Soil and Wastes Contaminated by Radioactive Materials Resulting from the Great East Japan Earthquake and Related Works [Ordinance of the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare (MHLW) No. 152 of 2011; referred to as the “Ionizing Radiation Ordinance for Decontamination”] on 1 January 2012, and has established “Guideline on Prevention of Radiation Hazards for Workers Engaged in Decontamination Works” (Labour Standards Bureau Notification No. 1222-6, 22 December 2011; partially revised in Labour Standards Bureau Notification No. 0615-6, 15 June 2012; hereinafter referred to as “Decontamination Guideline”), to collectively show the measures specified in the Ionizing Radiation Ordinance, other measures that employer shall take, and the essence of the provisions specified in laws and regulations associated with the Industrial Safety and Health Act, and has instructed proper implementation of the guideline.

To reflect the latest knowledge, and for employers to more properly measure dust concentration and radioactivity concentration, Annex 3 “Method of determining whether a work corresponds to ‘work under high dust concentration’” and Annex 6-1 “Procedure of simplified radioactivity concentration measurement” in the Decontamination Guideline were revised as in Annex 1 and 2. You are strongly requested to make these known to all concerned contractors, and prefectural and municipal authorities within your jurisdiction, and properly promote the prevention of radiation hazards during decontamination and related works and works under a designated dose rate, in consideration of the following notes.

It should be noted that the Chief of the Environmental Management Bureau of the Ministry of the Environment; the Head of the Secretariat of the Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Research Council of the

Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; the Director-General of the Reconstruction Agency; and the Vice-Secretary General of the Team in Charge of Assisting the Lives of Disaster Victims of the Nuclear Emergency Response Headquarters of the Cabinet Office have been notified as in Annex 3; that the prefectural governors of Iwate, Miyagi, Fukushima, Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, and Chiba have been notified as in Annex 4; and that related employers' groups have been notified as in Annex 5.

Notes

1. Method of determining whether work corresponds to 'work under high dust concentration'

A determination method based on measurement with a digital dust meter which used a pre-defined mass-concentration conversion factor was added. With this digital dust meter, measurement to determine the mass-concentration conversion factor, which was previously necessary, is no longer necessary.

2. Procedure of simplified radioactivity concentration measurement of contaminated soil, etc.

In addition to previous measurement procedure using sand bags, a measurement method using flexible containers of larger capacity or 200-litre drums was added.