

Newport News Shipbuilding  
Contractor Environmental, Health and Safety  
Resource Manual

Arsenic

## **ARSENIC**

### **1. *Hazard***

At NNS, exposure monitoring results have indicated a potential for inorganic arsenic levels to exceed the applicable OSHA exposure limits during abrasive blasting in enclosed and confined spaces.

Contractors shall ensure that their personnel are not exposed to inorganic arsenic over the applicable OSHA levels.

### **2. *Regulations & Requirements***

Where there is potential for personnel exposure to inorganic arsenic, OSHA requires each employer to determine the extent of exposure. If airborne exposures are above the action level ( $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), OSHA requires the employer to establish and implement a written compliance program and comply with other requirements of 29 CFR 1910.1018.

During the NNS pre-approval process (see General Information) each contractor whose employees may be exposed to arsenic above the action level ( $5 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ), must provide to the NNS Environmental, Health and Safety Department a copy of that contractor's written Arsenic Program. This document must describe the contractor's program for complying with each element of the applicable OSHA standard(s). The contractor shall provide a copy of any changes to the program on an annual basis, such as at the beginning of each year.

The employer shall ensure that unprotected personnel will not be exposed to airborne levels of arsenic above the action level.