

# **TECHNICAL BULLETIN**

---

1014

## **OSHA Blood Borne Pathogen Standard and Multi-Quat HBV/Multi Spray**

---

OSHA's Bloodborne Pathogen Standard was developed to provide a guideline for minimizing employee occupational exposure to blood or other potentially infectious materials. The Standard defines how compliance with the ruling is to be met in a number of areas, with particular attention to housekeeping. It is in this housekeeping section [29 CFR Part 1910.1030, (d) Methods of Compliance, (4) Housekeeping] where specific reference is made to how equipment and environmental surfaces should be decontaminated. In the original Standard, only "...appropriate disinfectant..." was mentioned for decontaminating work or environmental surfaces. As this was rather vague, OSHA updated the Standard to include "...registered sterilants...", "...tuberculocidal disinfectants (effective against tuberculosis bacteria and the specific viruses named on the product label as well as the hepatitis B virus), and antimicrobials with HIV efficacy claims...". While this further defined appropriate disinfectants, OSHA was assuming Tuberculocidal disinfectants were effective against HBV, while no reliable HBV test had yet been recognized by EPA [which registers germicides].

This meant that in order to clean up a contaminated surface, you had to use either a Tuberculocidal germicide or bleach.

The National Office of OSHA [U.S. Department of Labor] issued a letter dated November 1, 1996 which addressed the issue of EPA-registered products fitting the description of "appropriate disinfectant" under the Bloodborne Pathogen Standard. This memo stated that those products correctly labelled as effective against HIV and HBV could be used where HIV and HBV were the only pathogens of concern, and under limited conditions. This clarification was a little too restrictive--in how many cases would the person performing the decontamination know that the only pathogen was either HIV or HBV?

However, in a more recent [February 1997] memorandum sent to all Regional Administrators, OSHA has

"...reconsidered the limitations in the memorandum of November 1, 1996, and has decided that the policy that requires the use of EPA-registered tuberculocidal disin-

0000-B9702A-S

fectants and/or a diluted bleach solution to decontaminate contaminated work surfaces will be expanded to include EPA-registered disinfectants that are labeled as effective against HIV and HBV, provided such surfaces have not become contaminated with agents(s) or volumes of or concentrations of agent(s) for which higher level disinfection is recommended.”

This means that for decontaminating hard surfaces where blood or other potentially infectious materials are present [or are thought to be present], Multi Quat HBV or Multi Spray should be used. Not only are Multi Quat HBV and Multi Spray registered for use against HBV [and 106 additional organisms], they help you maintain compliance with the OSHA standard. *Please read and follow all label directions carefully.*

For further information on use and application of this product, please contact your Sales Representative or call Customer Technical Service at 800.325.9218 ext. 580.