

OSHA
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
U.S. Department of Labor

Overview of Directives Number: CPL 2-2.69
Effective Date: Nov. 27, 2001

Purpose: To provide an overview of the Occupational Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens Standard (29 CFR 1910.1030) and the Enforcement Procedures for the Occupational Exposures to Bloodborne Pathogens (CPL 2-2.69).

Background: On December 6, 1991, the agency issued its final regulation on occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens (29 CFR 1910.1030). Based on a review of the information in the rulemaking record, OSHA determined that employees face a significant health risk as the result of occupational exposure to blood and other potentially infectious materials (OPIM) because they may contain bloodborne pathogens. These pathogens include but are not limited to HBV, which causes hepatitis B; HIV, which causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); hepatitis C virus; human T-lymphotrophic virus Type 1; and pathogens causing malaria, syphilis, babesiosis, brucellosis, leptospirosis, arboviral infections, relapsing fever, Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, and viral hemorrhagic fever. *The agency further concludes that these hazards can be minimized or eliminated by using a combination of engineering and work practice controls, personal protective clothing and equipment, training, medical surveillance, hepatitis B vaccination, signs and labels, and other provisions.*

Definition: “Engineering Controls” means controls that isolate or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the workplace.

Exposure Control Plan – 29 CFR 1910.1030(c): requires the employer to review and update the exposure control plan at least annually... As stated in the preamble to the standard, the review and update must reflect innovations in procedure and technological developments that eliminate or reduce exposure to bloodborne pathogens. [56 Fed. Reg. 64109-10 (1991)] The exposure control plan must document consideration and implementation of appropriate commercially available and effective engineering controls designed to eliminate or minimize exposure.

Methods of Compliance – 29 CFR 1910.1030(d): Paragraph (d)(2)(i): This paragraph requires the employer to institute engineering and work practice controls as the *primary* means of eliminating or minimizing employee exposure. OSHA has always required employers to use engineering and work practice controls. *Thus the employer must use engineering and work practice controls that eliminate occupational exposure or reduce it to the lowest feasible extent.* Where engineering controls will reduce employee exposure either by removing, eliminating or isolating the hazard, they must be used. Significant improvements in technology are most evident in the growing market of safer medical devices that minimize, control or prevent exposure incidents.

Maternus Statement: The Joey Clamp & Cutter has demonstrated the ability to significantly reduce or remove the bloodborne pathogens hazard from the cutting of the umbilical cord in labor and delivery. The Joey Clamp & Cutter is an effective Engineering Control for the Labor and Delivery environment.