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Welcome to the first installment of the DISCA Bulletin. This email bulletin will be sent monthly and will feature information on upcoming events and important news. Should you have any suggestions, please send them to info@disca.org.

Defective Chinese Drywall Is All Over U.S., Watchdog Says

Environmental testing sponsored by a national consumer group shows defective Chinese drywall has been found in homes in 41 states, says Americas Watchdog in Washington, D.C. The group says 250 million feet of the drywall came into the United States, through New Jersey and other ports during a building materials shortage from about 2004 to 2007.

The defective drywall emits sulfur compounds that corrode air conditioning coils, and damages other metals on items inside the home, including jewelry, chrome, silverware and copper wiring inside electrical outlets. But there is no documentation the drywall is an environmental hazard, threatens a species or is threatening water supplies, said Henry Slack of the EPA.

"Is it affecting people's health?" Slack said. "We don't know."

Top Ten OSHA Violations in 2008

The following were the top 10 most frequently cited standards in fiscal year 2008:

1. Scaffolding, General Requirements, Construction (29 CFR 1926.451)
2. Fall Protection, Construction (29 CFR 1926.501)
3. Hazard Communication Standard, General Industry (29 CFR 1910.1200)
4. Control Of Hazardous Energy (lockout/tagout), General Industry (29 CFR 1910.147)
5. Respiratory Protection, General Industry (29 CFR 1910.134)
6. Electrical, Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment, General Industry (29 CFR 1910.305)
7. Powered Industrial Trucks, General Industry (29 CFR 1910.178)
8. Ladders, Construction (29 CFR 1926.1053)
9. Machines, General Requirements, General Industry (29 CFR 1910.212)
10. Electrical Systems Design, General Requirements, General Industry (29 CFR 1910.303)

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