



HSIA

halogenated
solvents
industry
alliance, inc.

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HSIA SUPPORTS OSHA'S CITING AND FINE OF BEST TOUCH TUB & TILE, LLC, FOR SERIOUS SAFETY VIOLATIONS RELATING TO AN EMPLOYEE'S EXPOSURE TO METHYLENE CHLORIDE

After the tragic death of an employee from acute methylene chloride exposure, Best Touch Tub and Tile, LLC, was cited by OSHA for five violations:

- Failing to monitor a worker's exposure to methylene chloride;
- Failing to provide medical surveillance;
- Failure to train workers in using, storing and taking protective measures to minimize exposure to hazardous chemicals used on the job;
- Failure to provide adequate respiratory protection; and
- Failure to develop a respiratory protection program.

In addition, OSHA proposed penalties of \$25,200.

HSIA supports the safe and effective use of chlorinated solvents such as methylene chloride and recommends that all users of methylene chloride take appropriate safety precautions. Household and industrial products containing methylene chloride should be used in accordance with manufacturers' labels. Cautionary labeling for such products that meet or exceed the requirements of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act has been approved by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The following actions are strongly recommended:

- Always wear protective gloves, protective clothing and eye and face protection to avoid contact with skin, eyes and clothing;
- Do not breathe mist, vapors or spray;
- Ventilate closed spaces before entering them and make sure that the solvent vapor concentrations do not exceed limits established by OSHA;

- Do not eat, drink or smoke when using the product;
- Always consult the manufacturers safety data sheet and label instructions before using and do not handle until all safety precautions have been read and understood;
- Use respiratory protection when vapor concentrations may exceed OSHA limits; pay particular attention to working in a closed environment;
- Store unused product in a cool, dry and well ventilated area;
- Properly dispose of any unused material and do not release the materials into drains, water or groundwater;
- Properly train personnel in the safe handling, storage and disposal of methylene chloride and the appropriate safety procedures; and
- Do not use in areas where there is likely to be inadequate ventilation (e.g., bathrooms, basements, any confined areas, etc.).