

CCM e-News Brief

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[Compliments of Charlotte Bishop, President, Creative Case Management, Inc.]

OSHA Requests. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration is extending the public comment period on the request for information on potential revisions to its Process Safety Management standard and related standards for an additional 21 days to March 31, 2014. In response to requests for an extension, the deadline to submit written comments is being extended from March 10 to March 31 to allow stakeholders additional time to comment on the proposed rule and supporting analyses. The RFI is in response to executive order 13650, which seeks to improve chemical facility safety and security, issued in the wake of the April 2013 West, Texas, tragedy that killed 15 in an ammonium nitrate explosion. OSHA is requesting comments on its Process Safety Management standard and potential changes to PSM enforcement policies, as well as input on potential updates to the agency's Explosives and Blasting Agents, Flammable Liquids and Spray Finishing standards. The RFI also seeks information and data on specific rulemaking and policy options, and the workplace hazards they address. OSHA will use the information received in response to this RFI to determine what actions, if any, it may take. Additional information on the executive order and the request for information may be found at <http://www.osha.gov/chemicalexecutiveorder/index.html>. Members of the public may comment on the request for information by visiting <http://www.regulations.gov>.

More OSHA. Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA's role is to ensure these conditions for America's working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit www.osha.gov. In an official comment letter submitted to the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA), RIMS, the risk management society™, voiced its disapproval of a proposed rule that would require organizations to electronically divulge statistics regarding employee injuries and change the current reporting system. As proposed by OSHA, the rule would also force risk practitioners to duplicate their recordkeeping and data submission responsibilities. In its letter, RIMS proposes that an effort should be made to accept data submitted through the current Electronic Data Interchange system. "While the intent of the rule, to ensure workplace safety for employees, is critical, the information being required from organizations would be incomplete. It would promote organizations to stop tracking minor incidents and, essentially, lead to the misrepresentation of many employers' safety records," said RIMS President Carolyn Snow. "We appreciate the Administration's effort to increase transparency and look forward to working with them to develop a more effective and efficient solution." The official comment letter can be read here. For more information about RIMS External Affairs initiatives, visit www.RIMS.org.

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