



THE CITY OF NEW YORK

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Rudolph W. Giuliani
Mayor

Neal L. Cohen, M.D.
Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: All New York State EPA Certified Lead-Based Paint Firms

From: Ken Carlino, Industrial Hygienist
Lead Poisoning Prevention Program

Date: February 15, 2001

Re: Clearance dust wipe levels lowered for EPA defined lead abatement*

Pursuant to recently released regulations, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set clearance levels for lead in dust that supercede the New York City Health Code. These standards are effective March 6, 2001. Currently, the New York City Health Code §173.14(e)(4)(dd) specifies that to clear a work area for re-occupancy after performing certain lead hazard remediation work, clearance dust wipe testing must be performed and be at or below the following levels:

Floors:	100 micrograms of lead per square foot
Window Sills:	500 micrograms of lead per square foot
Window Wells:	800 micrograms of lead per square foot

THE LEVELS STATED ABOVE ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTABLE IF YOU ARE PERFORMING AN ABATEMENT AS DEFINED BY EPA REGULATIONS 40 CFR §745.223. THIS INCLUDES ENCLOSURE, REMOVAL OR REPLACEMENT (THESE LEVELS ARE ACCEPTABLE FOR WET SCRAPING AND REPAINTING).

As specified in 40 CFR §745.227(e)(8)(viii), EPA has set new levels for clearing a work area for re-occupancy after an EPA defined lead abatement is performed. All dust wipe tests taken must be at or below these new standards when performing an EPA defined abatement. The following levels must be used:

Floors:	40 micrograms of lead per square foot
Window Sills:	250 micrograms of lead per square foot
Window Wells:	400 micrograms of lead per square foot

If you have any questions or need further clarification, please contact the Lead Abatement Safety Unit (212) 676-6355.

** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) defines lead abatement as any measure designed to permanently eliminate lead-based paint hazards.*

J/operations/EPACenter

LEAD POISONING PREVENTION PROGRAM

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