U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
71 Stevenson Street, Suite 420
San Francisco, California 94105
(800) 475-4020
FAX: (415) 975-4331

Reply to the Attention of: Kenneatha Clark

MAY 23 2005

Federal Prison Industries, UNICOR
Recycling Business Group
Mr. Lawrence M. Novicky
400 First St., NW, 4th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20534

RE: OSHA Complaint #203588074

Dear Mr. Novicky:

In response to a complaint concerning safety and/or health at U.S. Prison Atwater, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration conducted an inspection there. That inspection was completed and the results of our investigation of these complaint items are as follows:

Complaint Items #1 & 2: Staff members and inmate employees are required to consume food and or beverages in an area with identified toxic material contamination in violation of 1910.141(g)(2).

Response: Unable to substantiate. Food service operations have been discontinued within the Unicor factory.

Complaint Item #3: The Unicor work areas are not kept clean to the extent that the nature of the work allows. The work surfaces are contaminated and compressed air is used to clean the areas which spread the particles around the work area and settle onto the work area contaminated.

Response: Unable to substantiate. Compressed air is no longer used as a cleaning method. The U.S Prison Atwater has purchased Hepa vacuums which were in use to keep the workplace as clean as practical.

Complaint Item #4: Staff members and inmates who are exposed to lead, cadmium, and barium are experiencing skin and eye irritation. They have not been provided with PPE.

Response: Unable to substantiate. Inmate employees who perform glass breaking operations with potential exposure to lead, cadmium and barium were observed wearing full face respirators with P100 filters. Employees have been fit tested and are medically qualified for respirator usage. Additional personal protective equipment provided to the employees includes Tyvek coveralls, safety shoes, Kevlar sleeves, and gloves. Inmate employees in the factory are

provided coveralls, safety glasses and gloves for use while performing work operations. Employees are assigned to a medical surveillance program.
No current reports of injury or illness were identified. Industrial Hygiene Sampling Data indicates exposure levels are below the Permissible Exposure Limit (PEL) for lead, cadmium, barium, and beryllium.

Complaint Item #5: Staff and inmates are exposed to compressed air utilized for cleaning that exceeds 30 P.S.I. during use.

Response: Unable to substantiate. Compressed air is no longer used as a cleaning method. Hepa vacuums have been purchased and are in use for cleaning the workplace.

Complaint Item #6: Staff and inmates have not received effective information and training on cadmium and barium. No training has occurred,

Response: Unable to substantiate. Safety and Health training was provided and information is documented.

Complaint Item #7: Staff and inmates have not been informed of the existence, location, and availability of any records including sampling data.

Response: Unable to substantiate. Information has been provided and training has been documented.

In addition to investigating the complaint items, OSHA also reviewed the work processes, conducted industrial hygiene sampling, measured the effectiveness of the ventilation system and evaluated the Safety and Health Program. No violations of OSHA safety and health standards were identified during this inspection. If you have questions regarding our findings, please contact Kenneatha Clark at (415) 975-4808.

Sincerely,

Connie Hunt

Connie Hunt, Director
Enforcement & Investigations