

postexposure skin-test conversion rates at the hospital have been less than 1%.

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OSHA Expands Focused Inspections in Face of Limited Resources

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As part of the effort to operate under conditions of chronically limited enforcement resources, OSHA plans to expand focused inspections to general industry. This initiative is one of the agency's key objectives for fiscal year 1995. It is planned as part of an agency-wide move toward a more results-oriented enforcement approach, indicated OSHA administrator John Dear.

To date, OSHA's only experience with focused inspections has been in the construction industry, with inspections focusing on

the four hazards that cause 90% of deaths and injuries. Only when one employer does not have an effective safety program in place is a complete wall-to-wall inspection done. These focused inspections in the construction industry began in October 1994 but have gotten off to a slow start. Complaints have arisen concerning lack of guidance for compliance officers conducting inspections and uncertainty of contractors in how to establish an effective safety program. OSHA anticipates targeting industries that have high injury and illness rates, and has indicated that it may look to labor and management groups

to help develop these new approaches.

Experts predict that OSHA most likely will proceed cautiously in 1995 under the new Republican Congress and will focus on using existing authority rather than developing new regulations. An example of existing authority is the general duty clause of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, which OSHA is using in the absence of a specific TB standard to cite healthcare facilities for lack of TB control measures.

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