Environmental controls

Are all work areas properly lit?

Are hazardous substances identified that may cause harm by inhalation, ingestion, skin absorption, or contact?

Are employees aware of the hazards involved with the various chemicals they may be exposed to in their work environment, such as ammonia, chlorine, epoxies, and caustics?

Is employee exposure to chemicals in the workplace kept within acceptable levels? Can a less harmful method or product be used?

Is the work area’s ventilation system appropriate for the work being performed?

Are proper precautions taken by employees handling asbestos and other fibrous materials?

Are caution labels and signs used to warn of asbestos?

Is the presence of asbestos determined before the beginning of any repair, demolition, construction, or reconstruction work?

Are asbestos-covered surfaces kept in good repair to prevent release of fibers?

Are wet methods used (when practicable) to prevent emission of airborne asbestos fibers, silica dust, and similar hazardous materials?

Is vacuuming dust with appropriate equipment conducted rather than blowing or sweeping?

Are grinders, saws, and other machines that produce dust vented to an industrial collector or a central-exhaust system?

Are all local-exhaust ventilation systems designed and operated properly at the airflow and volume necessary for the application?

Are the ducts free of obstructions?

Have you ensured that belts are not slipping?

Is personal protective equipment provided, used, and maintained whenever required?

Are written standard operating procedures available for selection and use of respirators?

Are restrooms and washrooms sanitary?

Is potable water provided for drinking, washing, and cooking?

Are all outlets for water that is not suitable for drinking, clearly identified?

Are employees instructed how to properly lift heavy objects?

Where heat is a problem, have all fixed work areas been provided with a proper means of cooling?

If employees work on streets and roadways where they are exposed to traffic hazards, are they required to wear high-visibility clothing?

Are exhaust stacks and air intakes located so that contaminated air will not be recirculated within a building or other enclosed area?