§ 50–204.2

Every contractor shall protect the safety and health of his employees by complying with the standards described in the subparagraphs of this paragraph whenever a standard deals with an occupational safety or health subject or issue involved in the performance of the contract.

(a) Compliance with the standards expressed in this part 50–204 are for application to ordinary employment situations; compliance with them shall not relieve anyone from the obligation to provide protection for the health and safety of his employees in unusual employment situations. Neither do such standards purport to describe all of the working conditions which are unsanitary or hazardous or dangerous to the health and safety of employees. Where such other working conditions may be found to be unsanitary or hazardous or dangerous to the health and safety of employees, professionally accepted safety and health practices will be used.

(b) Compliance with the standards expressed in this part 50–204 is not intended, and shall not be deemed to relieve anyone from any other obligation he may have to protect the health and safety of his employees, arising from sources other than the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act, such as State, local law or collective bargaining agreement.

Subpart B—General Safety and Health Standards

§ 50–204.2 General safety and health standards.

(a) Every contractor shall protect the safety and health of his employees by complying with the standards described in the subparagraphs of this paragraph whenever a standard deals with an occupational safety or health subject or issue involved in the performance of the contract.

(b) Any requests for variances shall also be considered requests for variances under the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, and any variance from a standard which is contained in this part and which is incorporated in part 1910 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, shall be deemed a variance from the standard under both the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. In accordance with the requirements of §1954.3(d)(1)(i) of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, variance actions taken under State provisions under a State occupational safety and health plan approved under section 18 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 with regard to State standards found to be at least as effective as the comparable Federal standards contained in this part and incorporated in part 1910 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations, shall be deemed a variance action from the standard under both the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act and the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.
(2) U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines.
   (i) In Chapter I of Title 30, Code of Federal Regulations, the standards requiring safe and healthful working conditions or surroundings in:
   Subchapter B—Respiratory Protective Apparatus; Tests for Permissibility; Fees.
   Subchapter C—Explosives and Related Articles; Tests for Permissibility and Suitability.
   Subchapter D—Electrical Equipment, Lamps, Methane Detectors; Tests for Permissibility; Fees.
   Subchapter O—Coal Mine Health and Safety.
   (ii) In Chapter II of Title 30 the standards requiring safe and healthful working conditions or surroundings in:
   Part 211—Coal-Mining Operating and Safety Regulations.
   Part 216—Operating and Safety Regulations Governing the Mining of Coal in Alaska.
   Part 221—Oil and Gas Operating Regulations Governing the Mining of Potash; Oil Shale, Sodium, and Phosphate; Sulphur; and Gold, Silver, or Quicksilver; and Other Nonmetallic Minerals, Including Silica Sand.
   (b) Information concerning the applicability of the standards prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section may be obtained from the following offices:
   (c) In applying the safety and health standards referred to in paragraph (a) of this section the Secretary may add to, strengthen or otherwise modify any standards whenever he considers that the standards do not adequately protect the safety and health of employees as required by the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act.
   (34 FR 7946, May 20, 1969, as amended at 36 FR 9868, May 29, 1971)

§ 50–204.3 Material handling and storage.
   (a) Where mechanical handling equipment is used, sufficient safe clearances shall be allowed for aisles, at loading docks, through doorways and wherever turns or passage must be made. Aisles and passageways shall be kept clear and in good repair, with no obstruction across or in aisles that could create a hazard. Permanent aisles and passageways shall be appropriately marked.
   (b) Storage of material shall not create a hazard. Bags, containers, bundles, etc. stored in tiers shall be stacked, blocked, interlocked and limited in height so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapse.
   (c) Storage areas shall be kept free from accumulation of materials that constitute hazards from tripping, fire, explosion, or pest harborage. Vegetation control will be exercised when necessary.
   (d) Proper drainage shall be provided.
   (e) Clearance signs to warn of clearance limits shall be provided.
   (f) Derail and/or bumper blocks shall be provided on spur railroad tracks where a rolling car could contact other cars being worked, enter a building, work or traffic area.
   (g) Covers and/or guard rails shall be provided to protect personnel from the hazards of open pits, tanks, vats, ditches, etc.

§ 50–204.4 Tools and equipment.
   Each employer shall be responsible for the safe condition of tools and equipment used by employees, including tools and equipment which may be furnished by employees.

§ 50–204.5 Machine guarding.
   (a) One or more methods of machine guarding shall be provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, in going nip points, rotating parts, flying