



**VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 12-013**

**ISSUED: April 1, 2003**

**SUBJECT: Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, and Fire Prevention Plans, §§1910.33 through 1910.39, Subpart E; Final Rule and Changes to Related Standards**

**A. Purpose.**

This directive transmits to field personnel the General Industry revised final rule for exit routes, emergency action plans, and fire prevention plans, §§1910.33 through 1910.39 and changes to related standards.

*This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.*

**B. Scope.**

This directive applies to all VOSH personnel.

**C. Reference.**

67 FR 67950 (November 7, 2002); OSHA Standards Memorandum 02-02 (November 21, 2002)

**D. Cancellation.**

Not Applicable.

**E. Action.**

Directors and Managers shall ensure that field personnel understand and comply with the revised standard included in this directive.

**F. Effective Date.**

March 1, 2003

**G. Expiration Date.**

Not Applicable.

**H. Background.**

The goal of OSHA's revision of Subpart E was to maintain the level of safety and health protection provided to employees under the existing rule, without increasing the regulatory burden on employers. In addition, OSHA sought to create a regulation that was easily understood and, to the extent possible, express employers' obligations in performance-oriented language. This revision of Subpart E rewrites the existing requirements in clearer language so that they will be easier to understand by employers, employees, and others who use them. This change reorganizes the text, removes inconsistencies among sections, and eliminates duplicative requirements.

The revised sections in the OSHA revision are as follows:

- 1910.33 - Table of Contents.
- 1910.34 - Coverage and Definitions.
- 1910.35 - Compliance with NFPA 101-2001.
- 1910.36 - Design and Construction Requirements for Exit Routes.
- 1910.37 - Maintenance, Safeguards, and Operational Features for Exit Routes.
- 1910.38 - Emergency Action Plans.
- 1910.39 - Fire Prevention Plans.

Other related changes would include amending other VOSH standards to conform with revisions to §1910.38(a) regarding emergency action plans and/or §1910.39(a) regarding a fire prevention plan:

- 1910.119 - Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals.
- 1910.120 - Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response.
- 1910.157 - Portable Fire Extinguishers.
- 1910.268 - Telecommunications. (*Note: this change does not impact VOSH's unique standard, Subpart (t), cited as CNSP.268 for underground telecommunication lines and construction*)
- 1910.272 - Grain Handling Facilities.
- 1910.1047 - Ethylene oxide
- 1910.1050 - Methylenedianiline
- 1910.1051 - 1,3-Butadiene

**I. Summary.**

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has revised its standard for means of egress. The revised final rules are performance-oriented to the extent possible, and more concise than the original, with fewer subparagraphs, and fewer cross-references to other OSHA standards. A table of contents has also been added to make the standards easier to use.

In addition, compliance by an employer with National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 101-2000, the Life Safety Code, will be deemed to be in compliance with the corresponding requirements of the revised standard. The name of Subpart E has also been changed from “Means of Egress” to “Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans and Fire Prevention Plans” to more accurately reflect the full content of the Subpart.

*C. Ray Davenport*  
Commissioner

Attachment: 67 FR 67950 (November 7, 2002) or refer to:

[http://www.osha.gov/FedReg\\_oseha\\_pdf/FED20021107.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_oseha_pdf/FED20021107.pdf)

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OSHA Area Office, Norfolk

**Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, and Fire Prevention Plans, Subpart E,  
§§1910.33 through 1910.39; Final Rule and Changes to Related Standards**

As adopted by the  
Safety and Health Codes Board

Date: December 2, 2003



VIRGINIA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH PROGRAM

VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Effective Date: March 1, 2003

**[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.33 through 16 VAC 25-90-1910.39, Exit Routes, Emergency Action  
Plans, and Fire Prevention Plans]**

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.119, Process Safety Management of Highly Hazardous Chemicals]

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.120, Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response]

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.157, Portable Fire Extinguishers]

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.268, Telecommunications ]

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.272, Grain Handling Facilities]

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.1047, Ethylene Oxide]

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.1050, Methylenedianiline]

[16 VAC 25-90 -1910.1051, 1,3-Butadiene]

When the regulations, as set forth in the final rule for Exit Routes, Emergency Action Plans, and

Fire Prevention Plans, Subpart E, §§1910.33 through 1910.39, and changes to related standards, are applied to the Commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry and/or to Virginia employers, the following federal terms shall be considered to read as below:

Federal Terms

VOSH Equivalent

29 CFR

VOSH Standard

Assistant Secretary

Commissioner of Labor and Industry

Agency

Department

December 9, 2002

March 1, 2003