

## Dipping and Coating Operations

### 5-Minute Talk

#### Overview of Topic

A dip tank means a container holding a liquid, other than water, that is used for dipping or coating. An object may be immersed (or partially immersed) in a dip tank or it may be suspended in a vapor coming from the tank.

Examples of operations covered by the dipping and coating standards are paint dipping, electroplating, pickling, quenching, tanning, degreasing, stripping, cleaning, roll coating, flow coating, and curtain coating.

The rule applies:

- to dip tanks containing a liquid other than water.
- when liquids in the tank or its vapors are used to clean an object, coat an object, alter the surface of an object, or change the character of an object.
- when draining or drying an object that you have dipped or coated.

#### Know the Hazards

The employer must inform employees of workplace hazards, what type(s) of protective equipment required, and information on the emergency procedures and reporting.

Employees must be aware of:

- workplace processes which use dip tanks, including the equipment and substances used.
- operational hazards of dip tanks such as chemical hazards, physical hazards from wet floors, and equipment failures.

#### Personal Protection

The following personal protective equipment (PPE) should be used when performing dipping and coating operations:

- Foot protection, including rubber boots.
- Gloves of appropriate length and selected for the type of liquid being used in the process.
- Chemical goggles whenever splashing of chemicals may occur.
- Other types of PPE that would be necessary for a particular process including aprons, coats, jackets, sleeves, or other impervious garments.



## **Emergency Procedures**

Respirators are used to reduce exposure and/or provide adequate oxygen. Respirator use must be according to 29 CFR 1910.134— Respiratory Protection.

Permit-required confined space entry must follow the applicable procedures outlined in OSHA's standard on permit-required confined spaces.

Employees must know the first-aid procedures that are appropriate to the hazards associated with specific dipping or coating operations.

## **Training Tips**

Before the talk, review 29 CFR 1910.124 and the employee handout.

At 1910.124, OSHA has specific requirements for workers involved in dipping and coating operations. Review these requirements prior to training if they apply in your workplace.

Any employees who must enter a dip tank must meet the requirements of 29 CFR 1910.146, Permit-Required Confined Spaces.

Inform workers of the location and hazards associated with dip tank operations in your facility. Specify the PPE workers are required to wear and tell them where they can obtain the PPE.

Review all applicable emergency procedures with employees who work with or in proximity to, dipping and coating operations.

## **Where to Go for More Information**

29 CFR 1910.124—Dipping and Coating Operations.

29 CFR 1910.134—Respiratory Protection.

29 CFR 1910.146—Permit-Required Confined Spaces.

