



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR BILL WALKER

**Department of Labor and  
Workforce Development**

Labor Standards and Safety  
Occupational Safety and Health

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13 April 2017

Anchorage Hilton  
500 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave.  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
Attention: Soham Bhattacharyya, General Manager

Dear Mr. Bhattacharyya:

An inspection of your workplace at 500 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501, on December 5, 2016, revealed that employees were exposed to hazards associated with training, specific to language, as well as the condition of the outside parking garage. The purpose of this letter is to bring your attention to these hazards and to encourage you to address them within your establishment.

Our inspection found that you have developed multiple training programs, in both English and Spanish. The inspection brought about concerns that in such a diverse workplace, employees who speak/understand limited English (and either little or no Spanish) may not fully understand the training. The Anchorage Hilton, for example, has employees from Sudan, the Philippines, and various other parts of the world.

Additionally, the inspection found that the outdoor parking garage had problems with aging/weathered paint, such as bubbling, flaking, and peeling. Due to the location of the parking garage, it is exposed to environmental hazards including, but not limited to, wind, moisture, and coastal corrosion. At the time of the inspection, no employees were working in the area and the location of damaged paint (ceiling) was inaccessible.

We do not consider it appropriate at this time to invoke the General Duty Clause. No citation will be issued for the presence of this workplace hazard. In the interest of workplace safety and health, however, I recommend that you voluntarily take the necessary steps to prevent workplace violence.

These recommendations may help to eliminate or reduce your employees' exposure to the risk factors listed above.

- (1) Find and select a translation services company to assist with training non-English and non-Spanish speaking employees to ensure the material is understood.
- (2) Translate all programs to the primary languages employees in the hotel use/speak.
- (3) Implement a screening process to ensure employees understand the training they receive; this can include short tests, verbal reviews, and/or an open communication forum.

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- (4) Implement visual inspections for outdoor work areas to include all levels, at least every six months.
- (5) Ensure all peeling, flaking, and bubbled paint is repaired or removed in a timely fashion by appropriate means.

Under AKOSH's current inspection procedures, we may return to your work site in approximately one year to further examine the conditions noted above.

If you have any questions concerning this matter, please contact the office at the address in the letterhead. Your personal support and interest in the safety and health of your employees is appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Matthieu". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Greg Matthieu  
*Acting* Assistant Chief of Enforcement