

## **Benzene Questions & Answers**

**Q: What is benzene exposure?**

A: Any exposure to benzene regardless of if the participant is or is not wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, including personal protective clothing, respirator, and equipment.

**Q: How often does a participant need to take a benzene test?**

A: Participants need a benzene card annually if they meet the following criteria:

- They are performing benzene operations in the current year.
- They have performed benzene operations in the past year.
- They have developed signs and symptoms of toxic exposure to benzene.

**Q: What does the test consist of?**

A: The test consists of the following:

- A brief history regarding exposure to marrow toxins.
- A review of prescription and over-the-counter medications.
- A physical examination.
- Bloodwork including a CBC with Differential (if abnormal, must be repeated in 4 weeks).
- A spirometry test (every 3 years).

**Q: What is the paperwork involved?**

A: The participant will need to fill out the *Benzene Questionnaire*. Once completed, the physician will fill out the *Benzene Exposure Physician Evaluation & Respirator Clearance form*. Once both forms are completed the physician will issue a *Benzene Certificate*, with a one-year expiration date (from the date of your physical).