

[News Releases \(/news/newsreleases\)](#)

/ U.S. Department of Labor Cites Kansas Aircraft Manufacturer For Exposing Employees to a Known Carcinogen



## OSHA News Release - Region 7

U.S. Department of Labor

Jan. 31, 2018

### **U.S. Department of Labor Cites Kansas Aircraft Manufacturer For Exposing Employees to a Known Carcinogen**

**WICHITA, KS** – The U.S. Department of Labor’s Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has cited aircraft manufacturer Spirit Aerosystems Inc. for exposing employees to hexavalent chromium, a known carcinogen. The company faces proposed penalties totaling \$194,006 for one willful and five serious violations.

OSHA investigators found that the Kansas-based defense contractor exposed employees to airborne concentrations of hexavalent chromium nearly two times the permissible exposure limit. The company failed to implement sufficient feasible engineering and work practice controls to prevent exposure, conduct monitoring or sampling, provide training, and require employees to properly remove potentially contaminated personal protective equipment and clothing before leaving the sanding area.

“This company failed to protect their employees from exposure to a known carcinogen,” said OSHA Acting Wichita Area Office Director Ryan Hodge. “Employers are required to continually evaluate their facilities for hazards, and use the proper safety controls and equipment to keep their worksites safe and healthy.”

[View citations issued to Spirit Aerosystems Inc.](#)

<https://www.dol.gov/sites/default/files/newsroom/newsreleases/OSHA20180122.pdf>

The company has 15 business days from receipt of its citations and penalties to comply, request an informal conference with OSHA’s area director, or contest the findings before the independent [Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission](#) (<https://www.oshrc.gov/>).

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to ensure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education, and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov/>.

# # #

#### **Media Contacts:**

Scott Allen, 312-353-4727, [allen.scott@dol.gov](mailto:allen.scott@dol.gov) (<mailto:allen.scott@dol.gov>)

Rhonda Burke, 312-353-6976, [burke.rhonda@dol.gov](mailto:burke.rhonda@dol.gov) (<mailto:burke.rhonda@dol.gov>)

Release Number: 18-122-KAN