Assessment of Lead-Containing Materials at Train Station

San Jose, California

Laboratory results for boarding area samples ranged from nondetect to 9.4 percent lead.

Highlights:

Fast-tracked assessment of lead in building materials

On-site XRF sampling

Health and safety plan for renovation and demolition

California Department of Transportation

Caltrans retained Tetra Tech to determine lead content in paint and wall materials at the historic San Jose Cahill Train Station.

Our scientists collected samples of plaster, air, and paint chips throughout the facility. We analyzed these samples for lead either on-site, using x-ray fluorescence (XRF) technology, or at an outside laboratory.

The lead content in samples taken from the boarding area ranged from nondetect to 9.4 percent; the paint samples taken from the train station building and analyzed by the XRF method showed lead levels from nondetect to more than 40 milligrams per cubic centimeter.

Additionally, we conducted personal air monitoring of the workers and found the levels for airborne lead at or below the OSHA action level.

Based on the sample results, Tetra Tech's staff then prepared a health and safety plan to address both worker and public safety issues. The plan conformed to federal, state, and local guidelines, including OSHA's Federal Construction Lead Standard, the California Office of Occupational Safety and Health's General Industrial Safety Orders 5155 and 5194, and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Regulation 11, Rule 1-Lead.