



OSHA's Top Ten for 2007 October 1, 2006 – September 30, 2007 By: Matt McCreery

Listed below is a summary of the top 10 OSHA cited standards by federal OSHA for fiscal year 2007. This list should be used to ask the question "Do we have any problems in these areas?" If so then ask yourself "How can we correct the deficiencies?" Once these questions are answered employers need to address the problems found, and discuss with their crews what needs to be done to be compliant. Safety Resources, Inc. can help identify and correct your organizational hazards. For a more complete explanation of what our firm can do for you call 800.641.5990.

TOP TEN STANDARDS VIOLATED

1. Scaffolding

This standard covers general safety requirements for scaffolding.

Employers are bound to protect construction workers from falls and from falling objects while working on or near scaffolding at a height of 10 feet or more.



Top 5 sections cited:	
1926.451 (g)(1)	Failure to provide fall protection
1926.451 (e)(1)	Failure to provide proper access
1926.451 (b)(1)	Failure to ensure adequate platform construction
1926.451 (c)(2)	Failure to properly support scaffolding
1926.451 (g)(1)(vii)	Lack of personal fall arrest or guardrail systems

2. Fall Protection

This standard outlines where fall protection is required, which systems are appropriate for given situations, the proper construction and installation of safety systems, and the proper supervision of employees to prevent falls.

Top 5 sections cited:	
1926.501 (b)(13)	Failure to provide protection – residential construction
1926.501 (b)(1)	Failure to use a guardrail, safety net or personal fall arrest system
1926.501 (b)(10)	Failure to provide protection – low slope roofs
1926.501 (b)(11)	Failure to provide protection – steep roofs
1926.501 (b)(14)	Failure to provide protection – wall openings



OSHA's Top Ten for 2007 (cont'd)

3. Hazard Communication

This standard addresses chemical hazards, both chemicals produced in the work place and imported into the workplace. It also governs the communication of those to the workers.



Top 5 sections cited:

- 1910.1200 (e)(1) Failure to develop and maintain a written program
- 1910.1200 (h)(1) Failure to maintain training
- 1910.1200 (g)(1) Failure to have a MSDS for each hazardous chemical
- 1910.1200 (h) Lack of employee training
- 1910.1200 (g)(8) Failure to maintain in the workplace copies of the required MSDS

4. Respiratory Protection

This standard directs employers in establishing or maintaining a respiratory protection program.

Top 5 sections cited:

- 1910.134 (c)(1) Failure to establish a program
- 1910.134 (e)(1) Failure to provide a medical evaluation to determine the employee's ability to use a respirator
- 1910.134 (f)(2) Failure to ensure an employee using a tight-fitting face piece respirator is fit-tested prior to initial use of the respirator, whenever a different respirator face piece (size, style, model or make) is used, and at least annually thereafter
- 1910.134 (c)(2)(i) Failure to provide respirators at the request of employees or permit employees to use their own respirators
- 1910.134 (f)(1) Failure to ensure employees using a tight-fitting face piece respirator pass an appropriate qualitative or quantitative fit test.

5. Lockout/Tagout

This standard outlines minimum performance requirements for the control of hazardous energy during machinery maintenance.

Top 5 sections cited:

- 1910.147 (c)(4)(i) Failure to develop, document and utilize procedures for the control of potentially hazardous energy
- 1910.147 (c)(1) Failure to establish and implement a written program
- 1910.147 (c)(6) Failure to conduct a periodic inspection of the energy control procedure
- 1910.147 (c)(7)(i) Failure to provide training to ensure the purpose and function of the energy control program are understood by employees, and the knowledge and skills required for the safe application, usage and removal of the energy controls are acquired by employees
- 1910.147 (c)(4)(ii) Failure to clearly and specifically outline the scope, purpose, authorization, rules and techniques to be utilized for the control of hazardous energy, and the means to enforce compliance

OSHA's Top Ten for 2007 (cont'd)

6. Powered Industrial Trucks

This standard covers the design, maintenance and operation of powered industrial trucks, including forklifts and motorized hand trucks.



Top 5 sections cited:

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|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1910.178 (L)(1)(i) | Failure to ensure each powered industrial truck operator is competent to operate a powered industrial truck safely |
| 1910.178 (p)(i) | Failure to take damaged powered industrial trucks out of service |
| 1910.178 (L)(6) | Failure to certify that each operator has been trained and evaluated |
| 1910.178 (L)(4)(iii) | Failure to evaluate powered industrial truck operator's performance at least once every three years |
| 1910.178 (q)(7) | Failure to examine powered industrial trucks before placing in service |

7. Electrical – Wiring

This standard covers the grounding of electrical equipment, wiring and insulation. It includes temporary wiring and splicing such as flexible cords and cables.

Top 5 sections cited:

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|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1910.305 (b)(1) | Failure to effectively close conductors entering boxes, cabinets or fittings and protect from abrasion |
| 1910.305 (b)(2) | Failure to provide all pull boxes, junction boxes and fittings with covers approved for the purpose |
| 1910.305 (g)(1)(iii) | Failure to connect flexible cords to devices and fittings so strain relief is provided to prevent pull from being directly transmitted to joints or terminal screws |
| 1910.305 (g)(1)(iii) | Flexible cords and cables may not be used |
| 1910.305 (g)(1)(iii)(A) | Flexible cords and cables may not be used as a substitute for the fixed wiring of a structure |

8. Ladders

This standards covers general requirements for all ladders.

Top 5 sections cited:

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1926.1053 (b)(1) | Failure to extend ladder side rails at least 3 feet above the upper landing surface to which the ladder is used to gain access |
| 1926.1053 (b)(4) | Using a ladder for the purpose other than for which they were designed |
| 1926.1053 (b)(13) | Using the top or top a step of a step ladder as a step |
| 1926.1053 (b)(16) | Failure to mark portable ladders with structural defects in a manner readily identifying them as defective, or withdrawing them from service until repaired. |
| 1926.1053 (b)(6) | Failure to use ladders on stable or level surfaces |



OSHA's Top Ten for 2007 (cont'd)

9. Machine Guarding

This standard covers general safety requirements for the use of machine guards.

Top 5 sections cited:

1910.212 (a)(1)	Failure to provide one or more methods of machine guarding
1910.212 (a)(3)(ii)	Failure to guard the point of operation of machines whose operation exposes an employee to injury
1910.212 (b)	Failure to anchor fixed machinery
1910.212 (a)(5)	Failure to guard blades
1910.212 (a)(2)	Failure to affix guards to machines

10. Electrical – General Requirements

This standard covers general safety requirements for designing electrical systems.

Top 5 sections cited:

1910.303 (b)(2)	Failure to install and use electrical equipment according to factory instructions
1910.303 (g)(2)(i)	Failure to guard electrical equipment
1910.303 (f)	Failure to identify disconnecting means of circuits
1910.303 (g)(1)(ii)	Failure to keep work spaces clear
1910.303 (b)(1)	Use of electrical equipment containing recognized hazards

Top 10 "Willful" Violations

Standard		Total Violations
1910.147	Lockout/Tagout	70
1926.652	Excavation – Requirements for Protective Systems	65
1926.451	Scaffolding	56
1910.119	Process Safety Management	34
1926.501	Fall Protection	30
1926.651	Excavation – Specific Requirements	20
1926.1101	Asbestos	19
1910.212	Machine Guarding	18
1926.062	Lead in Construction	15
1910.134	Respiratory Protection	14

Top 10 "Serious" Violations

Standard		Total Violations
1926.451	Scaffolding	9,341
1926.501	Fall Protection	6,070
1910.1200	Hazard Communication	3,750
1910.147	Lockout/Tagout	3,249
1910.178	Powered Industrial Trucks	2,615
1926.1053	Ladders	2,504
1910.212	Machine Guarding	2,473
1910.134	Respiratory Protection	2,440
1910.305	Electrical - Wiring	2,439
1910.303	Electrical – General Requirements	1,820

American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z359 Fall Protection Guidelines

By: Jeff Olejnik

In the U.S., occupational falls to a lower level account for about 7% of injuries in all industries and 14% of injuries in construction. However, 14% of fatalities occur from falls in all industries (Figure 1) and 35% in construction. This disparity in percentages suggests that falls tend to be very severe.

With this in mind, employers can save lives and reduce injuries by following the guidelines offered by the ANSI Z359-2007 fall protection code. One new section to this code includes Z359.2 "Minimum requirements for a comprehensive fall protection program." The following is a brief outline of this new section.



Minimum Requirements for a Comprehensive Fall Protection Program

This section applies to employers and safety professionals who create fall protection programs to protect their workers. It gives guidelines to:

1. Identify, evaluate and eliminate (or control) fall hazards through planning.
 - At each location where work is to be conducted, employers need to conduct an assessment of possible fall hazards. A few of these can include working on roofs, from scaffolding, or in personnel lifts.
 - Once the hazards are identified, employers must either eliminate the hazards by alternative working methods or control them through the use of PPE (Figure 2). This needs to be conducted prior to work being performed.
2. Ensure proper training of personnel.
 - All employees who will be exposed to fall hazards must be trained on how those hazards are eliminated or controlled. This may include proper work practices or the use of setting up and wearing any PPE that is required.
3. Make sure any fall protection and rescue equipment is properly installed.
 - As a best practice, this should be completed the first time the equipment is used at a job site or whenever a new employee is to use or set up the equipment. This will allow employers evaluate both the usefulness of the system and the ability of employees who use the equipment.
4. Create programs for safe fall protection and rescue procedures.

This section also sets standards for fall protection anchor points which are divided into two categories that include "Certified" and "Non-Certified." Certified anchors are those that have been selected under the supervision of a **Qualified Person**. Non-Certified anchors are those deemed by a **Competent Person** as capable of supporting the forces described by the standard. The table below describes the strengths needed by anchors for each category.

Fall Protection Guidelines (cont'd)

Anytime employers are preparing to send their workers to work at heights, these general guidelines should be followed. To implement a fall protection program and equipment needed, contact Safety Resources, Inc. at 800.641.5990 or www.safetyresources.com.



Fall Arrest

- ❖ Non-Certified:
 - 5,000 lbf static strength
- ❖ Certified:
 - Static strength two times maximum arresting force.

Work Positioning

- ❖ Non-Certified
 - 3,000 lbf static strength
- ❖ Certified:
 - Static strength two times foreseeable force

Restraint and Travel Restriction

- ❖ Non-Certified
 - 1,000 lbf static strength
- ❖ Certified
 - Static strength two times foreseeable force

Rescue Systems

- ❖ Non-Certified
 - 3,000 lbf static strength
- ❖ Certified
 - Static strength five times the applied load

OSHA Inspection Protocol

By: Kristi VanSoest

OSHA is here. Now what? A question each company, contractor and employee asks themselves when they hear the news. What would you do? How would you handle the inspection process? We will discuss some of the key points to an OSHA inspection and how the employees on-site should respond.

Every year OSHA inspects tens of thousands of workplaces from coast to coast. It is unlikely that you will know when OSHA will be visiting and it is always best to be prepared. Being prepared for an OSHA inspection involves preparing your supervisors and employees to act confidently and correctly. Here are some of the key items everyone should know about inspections.

There are several possible reasons why OSHA might be on-site:

- Somebody has made a complaint about worksite safety or health--perhaps a current or former employee, or perhaps even a resident from the community who is worried about hazardous materials or some other safety or health hazard that could affect the area surrounding your company.
- A fatality has occurred in your facility.
- It's a regularly scheduled inspection. This is most likely if you are in a high-hazard industry. Thousands of high-hazard worksites are targeted for unannounced, comprehensive safety and health inspections every year.
- It's a follow-up visit, perhaps to determine if prior violations have been corrected.

Most inspections are the result of employee complaints. The compliance officer or inspector should provide the employer with a copy of the specific complaint(s). The employee's name will not appear on the document. Do not comment about the reason for the complaint or about the party who may have made the complaint. Employees who have registered safety complaints or instituted any proceeding under the OSH Act are protected from discrimination or retaliation by their employer.

OSHA Inspection Protocol (cont'd)

How is the inspection conducted?

The agenda for OSHA inspections are generally pretty standard and include five basic steps:

- When inspector shows up, the first thing they do is present their credentials to the facility manager. Although companies have the right to require a warrant at this point, most prefer not to take a confrontational stance and simply invite the inspectors to enter the facility.
- During a brief opening conference with members of management and employee representatives, compliance officers explain the nature and purpose of the inspection and indicate the scope of the inspection and the records they wish to review. If the inspection was triggered by an employee complaint, the inspectors will provide a copy of the complaint, but not the employee's name.
- The inspector will then ask to examine the OSHA 300 Log and other accident and illness reports. They might also ask to see such things as a copy of your hazard communication program, lockout/tagout procedures, or fire safety programs. They'll also check to make sure that OSHA safety and health posters are appropriately displayed.
- During the walk around inspection, inspector will look for violations of specific OSHA regulations. They will probably want to talk to employees and supervisors--and they have that right. Employees also have the right to talk to OSHA inspectors.
- The inspection wraps up with a closing conference during which the inspector reviews any violations and discusses possible methods and timetables for correction. The inspector will describe the company's rights and responsibilities and answer any questions at this time. They'll also explain that violations could result in a citation and fines.

During the course of an OSHA inspection you should stay with the inspector and accompany him or her at all times.

Do not volunteer information. Take notes on all observations an inspector makes, particularly departments or equipment inspected, approximate times spent in various areas and the individuals who were interviewed.

OSHA compliance officers are authorized to review relevant employer records during inspections. Relevant records include those required to be kept by the employer under the OSHA Act and OSHA standards or regulations. Provide only those records specifically requested.

If OSHA requests a copy of a record or document, make additional copies to keep with your OSHA inspection file. Keep a record of the documents provided to, or reviewed by, the inspector. Duplicate all pictures that OSHA takes and if OSHA takes a picture of a violation, take pictures of similar areas which show no violation. This might come in handy during the latter stages of the OSHA process. Repair or correct any violations immediately. This demonstrates good faith and may prevent a citation.

Getting Support for Safety

By: Michael Dougherty

What is the most effective way to get whole-hearted support for safety from your workers? Keep in mind, that any way you decide, must eliminate indifference and resistance to everyday safe practices. The answer to the question is communication to and from the employee.

The most successful approach in getting employees to commit to avoiding injury or incident is to get them to talk about the value of being safe. Then you can guide their thoughts until they convince themselves.

The difference in treating safety in a light or a serious manner results from each worker's personal conviction that the device or rule in question is (or is not) going to require their complete cooperation. They can be given firm mechanical instruction, but only they can commit themselves to follow the rule or prevent the bypass of a guarding device.

One way to get experienced employees to consistently use guards or follow rules is to have the employees talk and express their opinions about the specific problem. The problem area should be introduced to the workers with the clear understanding that it is of first importance to you as the supervisor, and to your superiors. Let them know that some action in compliance with the present rules must be forthcoming.

Start the employees talking. Ask questions which require fairly expanded or detailed answers. Listen intently and sincerely to demonstrate your interest. Agree where possible and encourage them to talk more. If the conversation is not already about specific safety devices or practices, turn it toward these subjects. Let them tell you how others could compromise or bypass the prescribed practice. Keep on the subject and get them to talk, talk, and talk.

You are generally the 'expert' on safety, but the employee is the expert on the work that applies the safety device or principle. They respect your expertise, but they expect that you will respect their knowledge and experience. As a practical result, your advice won't be appreciated by them nearly as much as their own. Both of you know that you can temporarily modify their physical movement by giving direction, but only the workers can modify their attitude for the long, safe haul.

Changes to OSHA's PPE Standard

By: Chris Hall

Last November OSHA changed its personal protective equipment standard, 29 CFR 1910.132. This change did not effect what types of PPE were to be required or when employees are to utilize it. The change was made to clarify and outline an issue than many employers and employees have taken issue with for a long time; who is responsible to pay for which types of PPE. Most employers have always paid for all types of PPE for their employees. OSHA's rule change, discussed here applies not only to general industry, but also construction, longshoring, shipyard, and marine terminal regulations.

Employers are required to provide employees with equipment that is specifically required to protect them from hazards they encounter on a daily basis. This includes, but is not limited to:

- Respirators which are required to comply with OSHA standards
- Hard Hats
- Work gloves to protect against hazards such as cuts and chemical exposure
- Metatarsal guards (removable guards if permitted, otherwise the boot is required)
- Welding helmets/shields and welding leathers
- Specialized footwear, such as steel-toe rubber boots or shoes with non-slip soles
- Specialty prescription eyewear, such as prescription lenses for use with respirators
- Hearing protection
- Eye and Face protection

The written standard specifically outlines which PPE employers are not required to pay for. The excluded items may be paid for by employers if desired, but OSHA does not require it. These items are as follows:

- Non-specialty safety-toe protective footwear (including steel-toe shoes or steel-toe boots)
- Non-specialty prescription safety eyewear, provided that the employer permits them to be worn off the job
- The logging boots required by 29 CFR 1910.266(d)(1)(v);
- Everyday clothing, such as long-sleeve shirts, long pants, street shoes, and normal work boots; or
- Ordinary clothing, skin creams, or other items, used solely for protection from weather, such as winter coats, jackets, gloves, parkas, rubber boots, hats, raincoats, ordinary sunglasses, and sunscreen.
- Respirators used under voluntary use provisions of 29 CFR 1910.134
- The employer must pay for replacement PPE, except when the employee has lost or intentionally damaged the PPE.

The final rule goes into effect on May 15, 2008. This delay gives employers and employees time to make required arrangements or negotiate future agreements as they may relate to PPE. For more information, visit the federal register at

http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_id=20094&p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER

NEWS

Please join us in welcoming the following new employees to the SRI staff!

**Terry Pedigo
Jeff Olejnik
Lisa Varnau
Michael Dougherty**

**Safety Resources, Inc.
4555 Northwestern Drive
Zionsville, IN 46077**

**800-641-5990
317-871-8155 – P
317-871-8148 – F**

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