

Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Regulatory Updates

FINAL STATUTES AND RULEMAKING

Citation

Summary

No final rules issued during the 2nd quarter of 2014.

Letters of Interpretation

OSHA issued the following letters of interpretation since our last regulatory summary update:

Clarification regarding hazard access zones in steel erection [1926.760(d)(1);1926.502(f)(2)].
Issued on June 19, 2014.

[Click Here](#)

Clarification regarding shop installed continuous bent plate in steel erection [1926.754(c)(1)].
Issued on June 19, 2014.

[Click Here](#)

Other Recent Developments

OSHA urges employers to prevent texting while driving

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death on the job, accounting for more than 2 out of every 5 fatal work injuries in 2012, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. OSHA reminds employers that they have a responsibility to protect their workers by prohibiting texting while driving. It is a violation of the OSH Act if employers require workers to text while driving, create incentives that encourage or condone it, or structure work so that texting is a practical necessity for workers to carry out their job.

New “We Can Do This” video explains the value of Injury and Illness Prevention Programs

“We Can Do This!” is a new seven-minute video developed by OSHA that explains how injury and illness prevention programs enhance workplace safety and health. An injury and illness prevention program is a systematic process that employers can use to find and fix workplace hazards before workers get hurt. Instituting these programs helps transform workplace culture and can lead to higher productivity, reduced turnover, reduced costs and greater worker satisfaction. The video can be viewed at:

[Click Here](#)

OSHA launches annual summer campaign to prevent heat-related illnesses

OSHA announced the launch of its annual campaign to prevent heat illness in outdoor workers. For the fourth consecutive year, OSHA’s campaign aims to raise awareness and educate workers and employers about the serious hazards of working in hot weather and provide resources and guidance to address these hazards. “Heat-related illnesses can be fatal, and employers are responsible for keeping workers safe,” said U.S. Secretary of Labor Thomas E. Perez. “Employers can take a few easy steps to save lives, including scheduling frequent water breaks, providing shade and allowing ample time to rest.” In 2012, there were 31 heat-related worker deaths and 4,120 heat-related worker illnesses. Heat illness disproportionately affects those who have not built up a tolerance to heat, and it is especially important for employers to allow new and temporary workers time to acclimate. Information and resources for employers are available on the OSHA website at:

[Click Here](#)

New educational resources available to protect workers from falls

New and updated materials for OSHA’s Fall Prevention campaign are now available. OSHA’s Fall Prevention Training Guide includes lesson plans, or toolbox talks to help employers protect workers from fall hazards on the job. The training guide is available at:

[Click Here](#)

New interactive training tool highlights hazard identification

OSHA announced a new interactive web-tool that will help small businesses identify and correct hazards in the workplace. The tool allows employers and workers to explore how to identify workplace hazards in the manufacturing and construction industries, and address them with practical and effective solutions. “Hazard identification is a critical part of creating an injury and illness prevention program that will keep workers safe and healthy on the job,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health Dr. David Michaels. “This new tool not only educates employers about how to take control of their workplaces and protect workers, it also demonstrates that following well-established safety practices is also good for the bottom line.” The hazard identification training tool can be found on OSHA’s website at:

[Click Here](#)

Vital safety precautions for tree care workers described in new hazard bulletin

The tree care industry can be very hazardous, exposing workers to falls and falling objects, as well as transportation, electrocution and crushing hazards. A new OSHA hazard bulletin on tree care work is the first in a series of guidance materials for employers about the dangers to workers. The bulletin describes two recent fatal incidents involving tree trimmers, identifying the hazards that contributed to their deaths and informing employers of necessary safety measures. In one incident, a tree care worker on the ground was struck and killed by a falling tree limb because his employer had not educated him about staying out of the drop zone. In another incident, a worker fell 65 feet when the trunk of the tree he was working on snapped in half. The bulletin is available at:

[Click Here](#)

Young worker outreach aims to increase awareness of workplace hazards and rights

Workers under the age of 25 are twice as likely to be injured on the job as older workers, and are often unaware of their workplace rights. In 2012, more than 170,000 young workers were injured and 361 were killed. OSHA created its young workers page to help reduce these numbers by providing tailored information and resources on workers' rights and summer job safety. The page has information on hazards common to retail, food service, maintenance and other industries teens are likely to hold jobs. It also has an online poster that can be printed and displayed to educate both teens and employers that all workers have the same rights to a safe and healthful workplace. The young workers page can be viewed at:

[Click Here](#)

Electric Power Generation: Interim enforcement policy issued

OSHA has implemented an interim enforcement policy for the new final rule on Electric Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution; Electrical Protective Equipment, which becomes effective on July 10, 2014. A memorandum issued to OSHA's regional offices explains the interim policy, which is in effect until October 31, 2014. The policy delays enforcement of most new requirements for employers who are complying with the existing General Industry rule. Additional information is available in the news release available at:

[Click Here](#)

New OSHA educational resources on protecting nursing home workers and construction crews

OSHA has prepared a new brochure entitled Safe Patient Handling: Preventing Musculoskeletal Disorders in Nursing Homes, which addresses the prevention of musculoskeletal disorders among nursing home and residential care workers. This brochure explains how implementing a safe patient handling program can reduce or prevent the number and severity of these musculoskeletal hazards. A successful safe patient handling program includes a commitment to the program by all levels of management, a program committee that involves frontline workers, hazard assessment, selecting technology and equipment to control hazards and training workers on the elements of a safety patient handling program. The brochure is available at:

[Click Here](#)

OSHA has also developed a new Fact Sheet on a recent material hoist collapse that killed a construction worker. The document describes the event, its causes, and best practices employers can use to prevent similar incidents from happening at their worksites. The Fact Sheet is available at:

[Click Here](#)