



Regulatory Compliance

How OSHA Violations Add Up: What to Watch Out for in 2018

Don Sears | Dec 21, 2017

Safety directors: Worried about OSHA violations and fines? Here's where you need to give your attention this year.

Compliance is complicated, especially when it comes to safety in manufacturing and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Compliance has many parts: It's one part federal (and state) government standards, rules and interpretation mixed with another part—worker training and investment in protective equipment. If that wasn't enough, there is even another part: the potential for violations and fines.

No one wants to see their employees injured on the job or exposed to dangerous substances that can permanently damage their lives. As part of a sustained effort to help improve the safety of workers and raise awareness of the cost of noncompliance with the law, OSHA ***publishes a list*** of the major violations every year.

Dive in to this infographic to better understand the six areas that affect manufacturing and general industry the most. A better understanding of OSHA's violation emphasis may help you tailor your safety program in the right places for your business and your workers. But remember: A narrow focus on the list is not a complete approach. There is so much work needed to help create and nurture ***safety culture***.


Want to dive deeper into all of the individual areas on the OSHA Top 10 list? ***See*** the graphic below.

How OSHA Violations Add Up

What to Watch Out for in 2018

When it comes to "OSHA's Top 10 Violations for 2017," manufacturers will want to focus in on these six. We offer tips to keep your workers safe and reduce your penalty risk.


1 Fall Protection
STANDARD: 1926.501 / OSHA LIST RANK #1

2017 violations 6,072	Total 2015 fines \$24 Million	
Average penalty \$3,286		
At this year's rates \$5,948		


2 Hazard Communication
STANDARD: 1910.1200 / OSHA LIST RANK #2

	2017 Violations: 4,176	Average penalty \$590
	Total 2015 fines: \$3.4 Million	
	At this year's rates: \$1,068	


3 Respiratory Protection
STANDARD: 1910.134 / OSHA LIST RANK #4

2017 violations 3,097	Total 2015 fines \$2.7 Million	
Average penalty \$745		
At this year's rates \$1,348		

4 Lockout / Tagout
STANDARD: 1910.147 / OSHA LIST RANK #5

	2015 fines \$9.5 Million	2017 violations 2,877
	Average penalty \$2,851	
	At this year's rates \$5,160	

5 Machine Guarding
STANDARD: 1910.212 / OSHA LIST RANK #8

2017 violations 1,933	Total 2015 fines \$9.8 Million	
Average penalty \$3,757		
At this year's rates \$6,800		

6 Fall Protection Training Requirements
STANDARD: 1926.503 / OSHA LIST RANK #9

	Cost: Unknown because first year on the list	2017 violations 1,523
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The Price of Violations

	A Steep Rise of 81% in 2017
Serious & Other-than-Serious \$12,675 Up from \$7,000 per violation	Failure to Abate \$12,675 Up from \$7,000 per day
	Repeat & Willful Minimum of \$9,054 Up from \$5,000 per violation Maximum of \$126,749 Up from \$70,000 per violation

SOURCES: Safety+Health magazine, 2017; MobileInspection.com, 2015; Global Safety Management, 2015; National Safety Council, 2015; OSHA, 2016, 2017; OSHA Law Blog, 2017; Safety News Alert, 2016.

Spotlight on OSHA Top 10 Violations

Here is a collection of the best articles and advice from real-world safety experts and best practices in the industry. Dive in.

5 Things About Fall Protection You Need to Think About

How to Choose the Right PPE: Fall Protection Harness

OSHA Regulations Adopt ANSI Z535

OSHA's Silica Exposure Enforcement: Are You Ready?

Preventing Safety Hazards with Effective Lockout Tagout Programs

Why Machine Guarding Is Key for Workplace Safety

A Safety Insider's Take: When to Train and Retrain Your Associates

PPE Selection: Find the Right Type of Respirator

10 OSHA Top 10 Questions for a Safety Expert

What area of the OSHA Top 10 list is the most challenging for your company? Share your story.

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