

OSHA's TOP 10 CITATIONS

A good safety program should be developed for safety's sake. The result is improved productivity, better quality, less time lost, lower insurance premiums, and for many, **fewer OSHA citations**. While OSHA compliance should not be the prime reason for safety, a review of the 10 most cited violations may help you recognize problem areas.

1. 1926.451 Scaffolding/Construction

This standard requires employers to protect construction workers from falls falling objects while working on or near scaffolding at heights 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 (g)(1)(vii) – Lack of personal fall arrest or guardrail systems
- 1926.451 (c)(2) – Failure to properly support scaffolding

2. 1910.1200 Hazard Communications

Whether you have chemicals in your workplace or you produce chemicals, this standard addresses communications to employees, labeling, etc.

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 (h) – Lack of employee training
- 1910.1200 (g)(1) – Failure to have a material safety data sheet for each hazardous chemical
- 1910.1200 (f)(5) – Failure to label each container

3. 1926.501 Fall Protection/Construction

This standard tells employers and workers where fall protection is required, which fall protection systems are appropriate for given situations, proper construction and installation of safety systems, and proper supervision. Fall protection starts at 6 feet.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

- 1926.501 (b)(1) – Failure to use a guardrail, safety net or personal fall arrest system
- 1926.501 (b)(13) – Failure to provide protection/residential construction
- 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

4. 1910.134 Respiratory Protection

This standard requires employers establish and maintain a respiratory protection program. It includes program administration, worksite-specific procedures, respirator selection, employee training, fit testing, medical evaluation, respirator use, cleaning, maintenance and repair.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

- 1910.134 (c)(1) – Failure to establish and implement written program
- 1910.134 (e)(1) – Failure to conduct medical evaluation
- 1910.134 (c)(2)(i) – Failure to provide Appendix D when voluntary use is deemed permissible
- 1910.134 (f)(2) – Failure to fit-test
- 1910.134 (k)(1) – Failure to ensure employees can demonstrate knowledge

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5. 1910.147 Lockout/Tagout

This standard provides the minimum performance requirements for the control of hazardous energy during the maintenance and servicing of machinery.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

- 1910.147 (c)(1) – Failure to establish program
- 1910.147 (c)(4)(i) – Failure to develop procedures for energy control
- 1910.147 (c)(7)(i) – Failure to conduct employee training
- 1910.147 (c)(6)(i) – Failure to conduct periodic inspections
- 1910.147 (c)(4)(ii) – Inadequate procedures

6. 1910.305 Electrical Wiring

This standard covers grounding of electrical equipment, wiring and insulation. Also covered are temporary wiring, splicing, lighting fixtures, switches, flexible cords and cables.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

- 1910.305 (b)(1) – Failure to protect conductors, entering boxes, cabinets or fittings
- 1910.305 (b)(2) – Lack of covers
- 1910.305 (g)(2)(iii) – Failure to connect flexible cords to fittings or other devices
- 1910.305 (g)(2)(iii) – Use of spliced or taped flexible cords

7. 1910.212 Machine Guarding

This standard covers how and when to use machine guards.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

- 1910.212 (a)(1) – Failure to provide machine guarding
- 1910.212 (a)(3)(iii) – Failure to guard point-of-operation
- 1910.212 (b) – Failure to anchor fixed machinery
- 1910.212 (a)(5) – Failure to guard exposed blades
- 1910.212 (a)(2) – Failure to affix guards

8. 1910.178 Powered Industrial Trucks

This standard covers the design, maintenance and operation of all kinds of powered industrial trucks, from forklifts to motorized hand trucks.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

- 1910.178 (l)(1)(i) – Failure to ensure operator competency
- 1910.178 (l)(6) – Lack of operator certification
- 1910.178 (p)(1) – Failure to remove unsafe trucks from operation
- 1910.178 (l) – Lack of operator training
- 1910.178 (q)(7) – Failure to inspect trucks

9. 1910.303 Electrical Systems

This section covers the general safety requirements for designing electrical systems.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

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

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10. 1910.219 Mechanical Power

This standard covers the proper guarding of components such as gears, chains, belts, pulleys and drive shafts.

Top 5 Sections Cited:

1910.219 (d)(1) – Failure to guard pulleys

1910.219 (e)(3)(i) – Failure to guard vertical and inclined belts

1910.219 (f)(3) – Failure to enclose sprockets and chains

1910.219 (e)(1)(i) – Failure to guard horizontal belts and ropes

1910.219 (c)(2)(i) – Failure to guard horizontal shafting