

OSHA's 2014 Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Violations

OSHA recently announced the preliminary Top 10 most frequently cited workplace safety violations for fiscal year 2014 for all industry groups. The overall number of violations was down a little bit this year due to the three-week government shutdown. At least so far, violations that could involve falls, Fall Protection, Scaffolding and Ladders, total 12,620, which account for over one-third of the total violations. The Top 10 for FY 2014* are:

1. **1926.501 - Fall Protection** – 6,143 violations. Common mistakes include failing to provide fall protection to employees working at heights, unprotected sides and edges, failing to use fall protection equipment correctly, and failing to provide protection from falling objects.
2. **1910.1200 – Hazard Communication** – 5,161 violations. Frequent citations include failing to have a written program, failing to have safety data sheets, improper or lack of container labels, and lack of employee training.
3. **1926.451 - Scaffolding** – 4,029 violations. Common mistakes include failure to provide fall protection improper scaffold construction (not fully planked or supported), lack of portable or hook ladders to access scaffold platforms, failure to provide proper access, and lack of personal fall arrest or guardrail system.
4. **1910.134 - Respiratory Protection** – 3,223 violations. Frequent citations include lack of a written safety program and basic communication, failing to perform medical evaluations, failing to select and provide a respirator appropriate for the activity, failing to conduct fit testing, and failing to train employees on appropriate use.
5. **1910.147 - Lockout/Tagout** – 2,704 violations. Common mistakes included failure to establish program, lack of or inadequate energy-control procedures, failing to apply locks and tags as necessary and failing to remove unauthorized employees from the area during equipment service and maintenance, inadequate or lack of worker training, and failure to conduct periodic inspections.
6. **1910.178 - Powered Industrial Trucks** – 2,662 violations. Frequent citations included lack of or inadequate operator training and refresher training, failure to inspect trucks, failure to remove unsafe trucks from operation, and modifications and additions that are not approved by the forklift manufacturer.
7. **1910.305 - Electrical: Wiring Methods** – 2,490 violations. Common mistakes include flexible cords being used in place of fixed wiring, failure to protect conductors enter boxes, cabinets, or fittings, lack of covers, use of spliced or taped flexible cords, and circuit boxes not designed to prevent moisture from entering.
8. **1926.1053 - Ladders** – 2,448 violations. Frequent citations include using a ladder not designed for the load it is carrying, using extension ladders that do not provide enough overhang at the top to ensure stability, and using an inappropriate type of ladder for the job.
9. **1910.212 - Machine Guarding** - 2,200 violations. Common mistakes include failure to provide machine guarding, failure to guard point-of-operation hazards, failure to anchor fixed machinery, and failure to guard exposed blades.
10. **1910.303 - Electrical: Systems Design** – 2,056 violations. Frequent citations include failure to guard electrical equipment, failure to identify disconnecting means and circuits, failure to install and use electrical equipment according to factory instructions, use of electrical equipment containing recognized hazards, failure to keep workspaces clear.

**Preliminary figures as of Aug. 11, 2014; final report will be published in December.*

OSHA publishes this list each year to alert employers about these commonly cited standards so you can take steps to find and fix recognized hazards addressed in these and other standards before an accident occurs.

Please contact Helen Riley (610-755-0728 x6629 or hriley@acs-safety.com) to schedule your next safety inspection. Or better yet, schedule out your entire year!