

RISK SERVICES

EMPLOYEE SAFETY UPDATE

TOP 10 MOST FREQUENTLY CITED STANDARDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023

The following is a list of the top 10 most frequently cited standards following inspections of worksites by federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) for all industries. OSHA publishes the list to alert employers about these commonly cited standards so they can take steps to find and fix recognized hazards addressed in these and other standards. Workers experience preventable injuries, illnesses and deaths related to the hazards addressed in these standards.

1. [Fall protection, construction \(29 CFR 1926.501\)](#) — 7,188 violations
2. [Hazard communication, general industry \(29 CFR 1910.1200\)](#) — 3,227 violations
3. [Ladders, construction \(29 CFR 1926.1053\)](#) — 2,950 violations
4. [Scaffolding, construction \(29 CFR 1926.451\)](#) — 2,835 violations
5. [Powered industrial trucks, general industry \(29 CFR 1910.178\)](#) — 2,550 violations
6. [Control of hazardous energy, general industry \(29 CFR 1910.147\)](#) — 2,539 violations
7. [Respiratory protection, general industry \(29 CFR 1910.134\)](#) — 2,493 violations
8. [Fall protection training, construction \(29 CFR 1926.503\)](#) — 2,109 violations
9. [Personal protective and lifesaving equipment: Eye and face protection, construction \(29 CFR 1926.102\)](#) — 2,064 violations
10. [Machinery and machine guarding, general industry \(29 CFR 1910.212\)](#) — 1,635 violations

To search an OSHA standard, visit [OSHA laws and regulations](#). To search the top violations of an industry with a specific NAICS code, see [frequently cited OSHA standards](#). To search and view the industry profile for violations of any specific OSHA standard, review [industry profile for an OSHA standard](#).

Source: [Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards](#)



Lockout/tagout: Affected employees

Lockout and tagout devices both prevent access to hazardous energy and warn you to keep away. Lockout devices prevent machinery or equipment from being turned on during servicing and maintenance and prevent machine and equipment parts from moving, usually by using locking or blocking devices.

Tagout devices warn you not to use the equipment. Tags are also used in situations when it isn't possible to place locks on controls or parts.

When you see locks or tags on a piece of equipment:

- Leave all lockout and tagout devices in place while authorized employees are servicing or repairing machinery.
- Wait for the employees to tell you it's OK before using equipment.
- Verify that the equipment is safe to operate after servicing or that repairs have been completed and locks and tags have been removed.

If you operate machinery or equipment, you should understand the procedure employees follow to lock out machines or equipment:

1. An authorized employee should notify affected employees of the planned lockout or tagout.
2. They will shut down the machinery or equipment.
3. Next, the employee will isolate the equipment from all energy sources.
4. They will then lock or tag out the energy-isolation device to prevent unexpected start-up.
5. Then, the employee will release all stored energy from the equipment, such as steam or hydraulic pressure lines, or restrain it from moving or activating as in the case of blocking to prevent movement of rotating parts or cylinders.
6. Finally, the authorized employee will test the machine — or attempt to restart it — to make sure the power source has really been isolated and equipment have successfully been de-energized.

Following proper restart procedures after a lockout or tagout is just as important for safety as the original shutdown. You may be on hand for the restart, so you should know what will happen:

1. The authorized employee who applied the lock or tag will inspect the equipment carefully to make sure nonessential items — such as tools or old parts — have been removed and all components are intact.
2. That employee will clear everyone else away from the equipment and notify you that all lockout and tagout devices are about to be removed and that the equipment is about to be restarted.
3. Next, they will remove the locks and tags and reactivate any isolation devices that had been deactivated.
4. Finally, the employee will then restart the machinery or equipment.

If you've witnessed this procedure, you've noticed how careful authorized employees are to follow all of the listed steps. Although you aren't responsible for these procedures, it's important to remember the purpose and use of lockout and tagout devices.

Loading dock safety: Chocking

When loading or unloading a truck or trailer, it's important to ensure the wheels are properly chocked. Chocking the wheels of a truck or trailer provides a physical barrier to the wheels to prevent them from moving while workers are loading or unloading cargo or hitching or unhitching a tractor and trailer. This can prevent injuries and accidents.

Truck drivers should back up to the dock and, before exiting the vehicle, ensure the brakes are set, the vehicle is at a complete standstill, and the vehicle is at a complete standstill and won't roll forward or backward. At this point, the wheels should be chocked to hold the truck or trailer in place. Chocks should be placed on the left and right wheels closest to the

loading dock. Positioning the chocks here means the forklift moving in and out of the truck or trailer exerts a downward force that helps to pin the wheels against the chocks. If only the front wheels are chocked, the forward motion of the forklift entering the truck or trailer may loosen the chocks and allow the truck to slide forward, creating a dangerous situation.

The forklift driver must always verify that chocks are properly placed and the floor is in good condition and capable of supporting the weight of a loaded forklift before driving the forklift into the trailer.

Chocks are available at the loading dock. They're chained to the dock, so they're easy to locate and won't be misplaced. Chocks may also be available inside the truck or trailer.





PROTECTING YOURSELF FROM CHEMICAL SPLASHES

Eye exposure to hazardous chemicals can cause permanent blindness as well as other damage or irritation to the eyes. Eye and face protective devices are critical to preventing damaging exposure. One of the following protection devices must be used while working with hazardous chemicals:

- Goggles with indirect ventilation (both the eyecup and the cover type).
- A face shield to be worn over spectacles or goggles.
- A full-facepiece respirator.

You should be provided with a protector appropriate for the particular job you'll be doing. If there's a potential for a chemical splash, you will most likely be provided with safety goggles. If you're working with highly hazardous chemicals, such as acids, you may also be required to wear a face shield over your safety goggles.

When you receive your protective device, check it to make certain it has a "D3" marking along with the manufacturer mark on it, meaning the device meets the requirements of American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Z87.1 for protection from droplets or splashes. It may also have a "+" sign to indicate it's impact-rated, which protects you in the event of an accidental chemical explosion.

Eye and face protection devices must be properly maintained in order to be effective. Be sure to:

- Check for cracks in lenses or face shields and replace if necessary. Also be sure to look for scratches that may prevent you from seeing clearly.
- Check frames and nosepieces to make sure they aren't warped or cracked.
- Make sure straps used to secure your eyewear aren't worn or broken or overly stretched out.
- Fit test your eyewear before each use. Make sure there's no damage that will prevent a proper fit.