



NEWS FROM STEEL TANK INSTITUTE-STEEL PLATE FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION

Safety & Health SPOTLIGHT

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Employers must publish injury data



OSHA Final Rule effective August 10

In early May, the US Department of Labor (DOL) announced OSHA's Final Rule to "modernize injury data collection to better inform workers, employers, the public, and OSHA about workplace hazards."

Under the new rule, employers in high-hazard industries must send OSHA injury and illness data for public posting on the agency's website. (These employers are already required to collect this data.)

The intent of the rule is to "nudge" employers to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses. "Just as public disclosure of their kitchens' sanitary conditions encourages restaurant owners to improve food safety, OSHA expects that public disclosure of work injury data will encourage employers to increase their efforts to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses," said the DOL press release.

- All establishments with 250 or more employees in industries covered by the record-keeping regulation must electronically submit to OSHA injury and illness information from OSHA Forms 300, 300A, and 301.
- Establishments with 20-249 employees in certain industries must electronically submit information from OSHA Form 300A only.
- The new requirements take effect August 10, 2016, with phased-in data submissions beginning in 2017.
- These requirements do not add to or change an employer's obligation to complete and retain injury and illness records under the Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses Regulation.

[OSHA info on "improving injury tracking" Final Rule...](#)

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Industry responds

According to the the [American Society of Safety Engineers](#) (ASSE), "The rule's emphasis on data collected after injuries and fatalities occur is a step backward for safety professionals who work hard to move organizations toward measuring leading indicators, which better indicate how to avoid injuries and illnesses."

In its response to the new rule, the [National Association of Manufacturers](#) said that, "The administration put a target on nearly every company and manufacturer in the United States. Manufacturers are supportive of regulations aimed at increasing transparency and are proud of creating safe workplaces for the men and women who make things in America."

"However, this regulation will lead to the unfair and unnecessary public shaming of businesses. This is a misguided attempt at transparency that sacrifices employee and employer privacy, allows for distribution of proprietary information and creates burdens for all manufacturers".

Reporting a severe injury to OSHA

"A hypothetical, illustrative narrative"

At the Fabricators & Manufacturers Association (FMA) annual meeting in February this year, an expert attorney in workplace safety and labor law presented a "role play" workshop with an FMA member.

FMA published an article about the presentation in the May issue of [The Fabricator](#). It offers a valuable perspective:

"A shop can do everything right when it comes to safety: train workers, use the latest machine safeguarding, and promote a safety culture so ingrained that workers wouldn't even think of going to the shop floor without the proper personal protective equipment."

"But this is real life. Severe injuries like amputations happen, unfortunately, and when they do, shops must report the injury to OSHA. Reporting such things is serious business, and how and when a fabricator reports these incidents really matters."

[Read the complete article...](#)

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Worker loses six fingers

No safety guards on metal press

OSHA cited an aluminum fabricating company for two safety violations and proposed \$70,000 in penalties after a 21-year-old temporary worker lost six fingers when his hands became caught in an aluminum press. Inspectors found that the incident could have

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been prevented if the employer had installed proper safety guards to keep the operator's hands out of the metal press' danger zone.

"It's hard to imagine the agony and pain this young man suffered when six of his fingers were amputated," said the OSHA area director. "His life is now forever altered because the press lacked required safe guarding devices."

[See OSHA news release...](#)

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"Egregious willful" violation for failure to implement Same machine, same injury



Just one year after a worker amputated part of her right index finger on a spot welding machine at a metal stamping plant, a 19-year-old co-worker suffered a similar injury on the same machine. OSHA inspectors found that her employer failed to implement safety procedures they had agreed upon to protect workers from machine operating parts.

OSHA issued two egregious willful, one repeated, three serious and two other-than-serious safety violations to the company on July 31, 2015. Proposed penalties total \$207,600.

The injured welder, employed by the company for two months, had operated the spot welder for only nine days before the amputation occurred on Feb. 5, 2015.

[See OSHA's report...](#)

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Worker severely burned by arc flash

**Employer failed to power down cabinet
before electrician began work**

A 48-year-old electrician suffered second and third degree burns to his hands, arms and torso when an arc flash occurred while he was working on an electrical cabinet.



An OSHA investigation into the Oct. 27, 2015 incident found that the employer failed to ensure the electrical cabinet was not powered down before allowing work to begin, and did not specify steps to power down machinery and prevent starting up during maintenance and servicing. The company was previously cited for similar violations in 2014 at this facility.

"This incident was totally preventable if his employers simply followed OSHA standards," said Christi Griffin, OSHA's director of the Atlanta-West Office.

The company received five citations for serious violations for its failure to:

- Ensure proper grounding of electrical equipment.
- Inform other employers of their electrical lockout program.
- Provide adequate procedures for electrical energy isolation.
- The worker's employer was issued two serious citations for failing to coordinate with other employers on the specific requirements of removing power from equipment before maintenance and servicing and exposing workers to electrical hazards.

Proposed penalties from the incident total \$122,780.

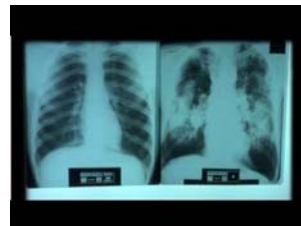
[Report courtesy ISHN online...](#)

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OSHA's silica exposure rule

Effective June 23, 2016

According to the lead article in the May issue of [ISHN magazine](#), about 676,000 workplaces will be affected by OSHA's new silica standard. Approximately 2.3 million workers are exposed to "respirable crystalline silica" at work. Exposure can cause silicosis, lung cancer, other respiratory diseases, and kidney disease.



Key provisions of the new rule:

- Reduces the permissible exposure limit (PEL) for respirable crystalline silica to 50 micrograms per cubic meter of air, averaged over an 8-hour shift.
- Requires employers to: use engineering controls (such as water or ventilation) to limit worker exposure to the PEL; provide respirators when engineering controls cannot adequately limit exposure; limit worker access to high exposure areas; develop a written exposure control plan, offer medical exams to highly exposed workers, and train workers on silica risks and how to limit exposures.
- Provides medical exams to monitor highly exposed workers and gives them information about their lung health.
- Provides flexibility to help employers - especially small businesses - protect workers from silica exposure.

[Read OSHA's page about the new silica rule...](#)

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7-day FREE TRIAL! WebNetTraining, An STI-SPFA member benefit

WebNetTraining™ is a web-based safety training system designed to complement or replace many of the safety training classes required to comply with OSHA. The system also automatically documents and monitors all results, making record-keeping much simpler.



Joe Griffith of Member Paso Robles Tank offers WebNetTraining™ during employee hiring. "I love the program," Joe says. "Workers are able to do the training at home and the documentation is great."

More than **60 modules** are available in one subscription, including:

Back safety	Guarding floor and wall openings	Hand and power tool safety
Confined space entry	Hazard communication	Hearing conservation
Contractor safety	Heat-related illness awareness	Industrial fire prevention
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Safety booklets available

[Click here to order the latest editions:](#)

- **Basic Safety Rules** booklet for warehousing, fabrication and construction. This booklet serves many members as their company rules book.
- **Tank Builders Scaffold Guidelines** booklet can stand alone or compliment the Scaffold Guidelines Presentation.



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How to navigate www.steeltank.com for Safety & Health resources

You'll find a broad array of information and resources for your safety program on STI/SPFA's Members Only Safety & Health pages. Having trouble finding those pages? [Here's a website navigation document to help.](#)

If you already have a username and password, log in and click "Safety & Health Pages" on the Welcome page. If you don't have Member access, [contact our office.](#)

Our website is a valuable resource for you as a safety and health professional. Check out these useful items:



- **Training Resources:** Materials for use by Member companies for safety training sessions—more than 100 presentations and posters
- **Personnel Incidents**
- **Safety & Health FORUM:** Recall notices, training resources, personnel incidents and news. Join in the discussions.
- **WebNet Safety Training:** Train employees inexpensively, at your plant, for a full year via the Internet
- **OSHA Issues:** Updates to OSHA programs of current interest
- **Tank Use Mishaps:** Monthly online newsletter with stories of mishaps involving tanks and petroleum

- **Safety Awards:** STI-SPFA's Safety Award of Excellence and the Safety Award of Achievement

[Go to the Members Only Safety & Health Pages...](#)

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