



**STEEL TANK INSTITUTE**  
**STEEL PLATE FABRICATORS ASSOCIATION**  
DIVISIONS OF STI/SPFA



## STI/SPFA Safety Spotlight

December, 2010

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From STI/SPFA

### *OSHA Seeks Comments on Proposed Noise Control Regulations*

In the October 19 *Federal Register*, OSHA published a notice of proposed interpretation relating to its noise control policies under the agency's General Industry and Construction Occupational Noise Exposure standards. The agency is seeking comments before March 21, 2011 on its proposal to require employers to use administrative or engineering controls rather than Personnel Protective Equipment (PPE) to reduce noise levels to acceptable levels when such controls are feasible. A summary of the OSHA proposal may be viewed [here](#).



Currently, if hearing protection provides compliance, the employer would not receive a citation. However, the reinterpretations will rely on feasible engineering controls, first, and administrative controls second, for compliance, and hearing protection last. Short of the employer going out of business due to compliance, the employer would be cited. An employer would spend a lot of money proving infeasibility.

While considering responding as an association, STI/SPFA was contacted by API to join with them, ACC and NPRA in opposing this reinterpretation by sharing the cost of an attorney to respond. STI/SPFA has decided to join the organizations in their efforts.

STI/SPFA will continue to provide updates on the matter. To contribute comments or responses as an individual company, please respond to any of the contacts below, as input would be appreciated.

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Jim Rhudy, STI/SPFA Safety Consultant, [jrrhudy@yahoo.com](mailto:jrrhudy@yahoo.com)

### *OSHA Deputy Director Richard Fairfax to Speak at STI/SPFA Annual Meeting*

Chairman of the STI/SPFA Safety and Health Committee, Tim Racicot of the CIC Group announced that OSHA Deputy Director, Richard Fairfax, will speak at the 2011 STI/SPFA Annual Meeting in Orlando on March 28.



On Saturday, March 26, the meeting will kick off with a presentation by Caldwell Tank's Wilson Frazier and Phoenix Tank's Robert Clouse entitled, "The Cost of Safety." The presentation will focus on why incorporating a quality safety program into a fabricator's corporate culture will save the company money.

Registration for the STI/SPFA Annual Meeting will be available soon.

### *Top Ten OSHA Violations*

In the 2010 fiscal year, more than 41,000 inspections were conducted by OSHA and 94,103 violations were reported. Of these inspections, 692 were due to fatalities. Approximately 32,000 violations were considered serious and 164 involved proposed penalties exceeding \$10,000. The top ten violations were as follows:



1. Scaffolding - 9,056
2. Fall Protection - 8,224
3. Hazard Communication - 7,179
4. Respiratory Protection - 4,224
5. Ladders - 4,232
6. Control of Hazardous Energy - 3,756
7. Electrical Wiring Methods - 3,628
8. Powered Industrial Trucks - 3,453
9. Electrical General Requirements - 2,977
10. Machine Guarding - 2,712

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## *Webnettraining*

STI/SPFA began offering a new web-based safety training program through Webnettraining at a discounted rate in September 2010. The Webnettraining website allows users to receive training anytime that complies with OSHA requirements. Employees have access to over 50 modules and then can be tested - all online! A training certificate can be created to help document the training with OSHA.

[Click here](#) to sign up for Webnettraining. Don't miss out and see why other STI/SPFA Member Companies such as Acterra Group, J.L. Houston Co., Mid-South Steel Products, Stanwade Metal Products and Watco Tanks have made plans to participate in the program.

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## *About Us*

STI/SPFA is a trade association that has as its members fabricators of steel construction products (and their suppliers). Member companies produce steel storage tanks, field erected steel tanks, pressure vessels and heat exchangers, and piping and pipelines used in the petrochemical, power generation, food, drug, fuel, wastewater and water transmission group.

This newsletter is sent to all STI/SPFA safety contacts, please feel free to share with others.

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