

CRAFTSMAN'S CRIBSHEET

NUMBER

04

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 Technical Regulatory Quality Management

OSHA INSPECTION PRIORITIES

How does OSHA decide to inspect a workplace? OSHA prioritizes inspections based on the following criteria:

1. **Imminent danger situations**—hazards that could cause death or serious physical harm receive top priority.
2. **Fatalities and catastrophes**—incidents that involve a death or the hospitalization of three or more employees come next.
3. **Complaints**—allegations of hazards or violations also receive a high priority.
4. **Referrals**—from other federal, state or local agencies, individuals, organizations or the media of hazard information receive consideration for inspection.
5. **Follow-ups**—checks for abatement of violations cited during previous inspections are also conducted by the agency in certain circumstances.
6. **Planned or programmed investigations**—inspections aimed at specific high-hazard industries or individual workplaces that have experienced high rates of injuries and illnesses also receive priority.

For more on these inspection priorities consult the OSHA Fact Sheet: http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/data_General_Facts/factsheet-inspections.pdf



What can you do to manage the risk of such inspections?

Training and auditing the performance of your people in

- Personal Protective Equipment
- Lockout-Tagout
- Right-To-Know Hazard Communication
- Slips, Falls and Tripping Hazards
- Machine Guarding
- Powered Industrial Trucks
- Wiring and General Electrical

You can intelligently manage your company's risk of OSHA enforcement and penalties by asking yourself these three questions and then doing something about them:

- Do you have a process for managing safety?
- Is it followed?
- Is it effective?

As employers we have a general duty to maintain a safe workplace. Let's take our duty seriously. You know the folks from OSHA will.

Additional Resources:

OSHA Field Manual: http://www.osha.gov/OshDoc/Directive_pdf/CPL_02-00-150.pdf

OSHA Employers Rights: <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/osha3000.pdf>

OSHA Top Ten Most Frequently Cited Standards: http://www.osha.gov/Top_Ten_Standards.html

All Craftsman's Crib sheets are available for viewing and download at pmpa.org/knowledge-tools/craftsmans-cribsheets