

## Occupation Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Regulatory Updates

### FINAL STATUTES AND RULEMAKING

#### Citation

#### Summary

No final rules issued during the 4th quarter of 2014.

### Letters of Interpretation

OSHA has issued the following letters of interpretation since our last regulatory summary update:

Interpretation regarding assembly/disassembly and set-up terms used in OSHA's Cranes and Derricks in Construction Standard [1926.1403; 1926.1404; 1926.1405; 1926.1406]. Issued on October 15, 2014.

[Click Here](#)

Determining work-relatedness for injuries while on travel status [1904.5]. Issued on October 20, 2014.

[Click Here](#)

Prescription medications, including preventive antibiotics, are considered medical treatment and are recordable [1904.7]. Issued on October 20, 2014.

[Click Here](#)

Use of Kinesiology tape is considered medical treatment beyond first-aid [1904; 1904.7(b)(5)(ii)(M)]. Issued on December 12, 2014.

[Click Here](#)

Clarification of the new injury and illness reporting requirements contained in 1904.39. Issued on December 16, 2014.

[Click Here](#)

## Other Recent Developments

### **OSHA publishes directive for compliance officers for inspecting cranes and derricks**

OSHA issued a directive for OSHA compliance officers on enforcing the requirements of the Cranes and Derricks in Construction standard. The new directive provides OSHA compliance personnel with direction on performing inspections where power-operated equipment, covered by Subpart CC - Cranes and Derricks in Construction, is present on a construction worksite. The Cranes and Derricks standard was issued in 2010. A copy of OSHA Directive Number CPL 02-01-057 is available on the OSHA Website at:

[Click Here](#)

### **New web resource for residential construction employers to protect workers from falls**

A new website provides details about equipment highlighted in OSHA's Guidance Document for Residential Construction. A description or purpose of each fall protection device is listed, as well as the stage of construction where the device could be used, pictures of the device in use, installation instructions, and information about the manufacturer, vendors, and cost. The site, which incorporates input from residential construction workers, safety personnel, trainers, and contractors, was developed by Dr. Vicki Kaskutas, a researcher from Washington University School of Medicine, with support from the Center for Construction Research and Training through a National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health cooperative agreement.

[Click Here](#)

### **New OSHA wallet cards available: OSHA Reporting Requirements for Employers and OSHA's Hazard Identification Training Tool**

A new wallet-sized card, OSHA Reporting Requirements for Employers, details the severe injuries employers are now required to report to OSHA. For employers in Federal OSHA states, the new reporting requirements went into effect on January 1, 2015. The card also explains how employers can report by phone, online and in person. The card is available at:

[Click Here](#)

Another new wallet card, OSHA's Hazard Identification Training Tool, advertises a new training tool from OSHA designed to educate businesses about the hazard identification process using realistic workplace simulations. The card is available at:

[Click Here](#)

### **New fact sheets available on tube and coupler scaffold safety: Planning and Design and Erection and Use**

Two new OSHA fact sheets: Tube and Coupler Scaffold Planning and Design and Tube and Coupler Scaffold Erection and Use, are now available to help employers protect construction workers using tube and coupler scaffolding. Workers building scaffolds are at risk for serious injury from falls and tip-overs, being struck by falling tools and other hazards, and electrocution from energized power lines. Before starting any scaffold project, employers should conduct a hazard assessment to ensure the safety of their workers. The new fact sheets are available at:

OSHA FS-3760

[Click Here](#)

OSHA FS-3759

[Click Here](#)

### **BLS reports decline in workplace injuries and illnesses continued last year**

The Bureau of Labor Statistics published their annual report on workplace injuries and illnesses on December 4, 2014 and stated that three million workers sustained nonfatal workplace injuries and illnesses in 2013. Dr. David Michaels, assistant secretary of labor for occupational safety and health, issued a statement on the report. "We are encouraged that the rates continue to decline over the past few years, even during this period of healthy economic growth when we would expect the rate of injuries to rise. The decrease in the injury rate is a product of tireless work by those employers, unions, worker advocates and occupational safety and health professionals all coupled with the efforts of federal and state government organizations that make worker safety and health a high priority each and every day." Additional information is available at:

[Click Here](#)

## **New educational resources: Interagency fact sheet on safe handling of Ebola-contaminated waste, and booklet on hydraulic fracturing hazards**

Workers involved in handling, treatment, transport, and disposal of medical, laboratory and other waste must be protected from exposure to infectious agents, including Ebola virus. Contaminated waste may pose a greater risk to workers if it is not handled safely or packaged, treated, and disposed of properly. OSHA's new fact sheet, Safe Handling, Treatment, Transport, and Disposal of Ebola-Contaminated Waste, was developed jointly with the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and the Environmental Protection Agency. It helps employers take the necessary steps to protect workers whose jobs involve tasks throughout the waste cycle, from the point of waste generation through final disposition of treated waste products. The new guidance also encourages employers to create a waste management plan and secure necessary contracts and permits ahead of time in order to help avoid potential exposure hazards, security risks and storage problems. In addition to exposure to the Ebola virus, the new interagency guidance also helps employers protect workers from physical and chemical hazards that may be associated with waste management. The fact sheet is available at:

[Click Here](#)

OSHA also published Hydraulic Fracturing and Flowback Hazards Other than Respirable Silica. This booklet is the product of the OSHA oil and gas workgroup with assistance from the National STEPS network team and is available at

[Click Here](#)

## **NIOSH publication highlights ways to protect retail workers from material handling injuries**

The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health recently released a 23-page booklet showing procedures employers can share with workers in stores to reduce the risk of strains and sprains when moving materials from the delivery truck to the sales floor. Although the publication focuses on the grocery sector, it can be adapted to other scenarios including for those working in warehouse and storage facilities. Ergonomic Solutions for Retailers uses a series of illustrations to show how and where employees in a retail setting, such as a grocery store, would use mechanical assist devices to lift, push or pull heavy materials - job tasks that can lead to musculoskeletal injuries. Manual material handling injuries, also called overexertion injuries, account for 60 percent of the injuries and lost work in select retail businesses. The booklet is available at:

[Click Here](#)