



Just the Facts...

Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Compliance Inspections for Healthcare Facilities Most Frequently Cited OSHA Standards

Medical and Surgical Hospitals

- The Federal and State OSHA inspected 451 medical and surgical hospitals in 1997.
- Employee complaints triggered 64 percent of these inspections.
- Forty five percent of the employees' complaints ended with the facility receiving one or more notices of violations (NOVs).
- The top ten standards which were cited by Federal OSHA in medical and surgical hospitals in 1997 were:

<i>Asbestos</i>	29 CFR 1926.1101
<i>Bloodborne Pathogens</i>	29 CFR 1910.1030
<i>The Control of Hazardous Energy, Lockout/Tagout</i>	29 CFR 1910.147
<i>Electrical Systems Design, General Requirements</i>	29 CFR 1910.303
<i>Respiratory Protection</i>	29 CFR 1910.134
<i>Asbestos, Tremolite, Anthophyllite and Actinoite</i>	29 CFR 1910.1001
<i>Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries an Illnesses</i>	29 CFR 1904.2
<i>Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes</i>	29 CFR 1910.23
<i>Electrical, Wiring Methods, Components and Equipment</i>	29 CFR 1910.305
<i>Walking-Working Surfaces, General Requirements</i>	29 CFR 1910.22

Medical Clinics and Doctor's Offices

- The Federal and State OSHA inspected 233 medical clinics and doctors' offices in 1997.
- Employee complaints triggered 82 percent of these inspections.
- Sixty seven percent of the employees' complaints ended with the facility receiving one or more notices of violations (NOVs).
- The top ten standards which were cited by Federal OSHA in medical clinics and doctors' offices in 1997 were:

<i>Bloodborne Pathogens</i>	29 CFR 1910.1030
<i>Hazard Communication</i>	29 CFR 1910.1200
<i>Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses</i>	29 CFR 1904.2
<i>Portable Fire Extinguishers</i>	29 CFR 1910.157
<i>Means of Egress, General</i>	29 CFR 1910.37
<i>Respiratory Protection</i>	29 CFR 1910.134
<i>Medical Services and First Aid</i>	29 CFR 1910.151
<i>Standpipe and Hose Systems</i>	29 CFR 1910.158
<i>Asbestos</i>	29 CFR 1926.1101
<i>Access to Employee Exposure and Medical Records</i>	29 CFR 1910.20

Medical Laboratories

- The Federal and State OSHA inspected 63 medical laboratories in 1997.
- Employee complaints triggered 68 percent of these inspections.
- Sixty percent of the employees' complaints ended with the facility receiving one or more notices of violations (NOVs).
- The top ten standards which were cited by Federal OSHA in medical laboratories in 1997 were:

<i>Bloodborne Pathogens</i>	29 CFR 1910.1030
<i>Hazard Communication</i>	29 CFR 1910.1200
<i>Means of Egress, General</i>	29 CFR 1910.37
<i>Medical Services and First Aid</i>	29 CFR 1910.151
<i>Occupational Exposure, Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories</i>	29 CFR 1910.1450
<i>Log and Summary of Occupational Injuries and Illnesses</i>	29 CFR 1904.2
<i>Personal Protective Equipment, General Requirements</i>	29 CFR 1910.132
<i>Air Contaminants</i>	29 CFR 1910.1000
<i>Guarding Floor and Wall Openings and Holes</i>	29 CFR 1910.23
<i>Fixed Industrial Stairs</i>	29 CFR 1910.24

Strategies for Preventing NOVs

Healthcare facilities may avoid OSHA inspections and NOVs by:

- Encouraging staff to immediately report all safety and health hazards to their first-line supervisor.
- Empowering staff to correct safety and health hazards in their work area(s).
- Holding first-line supervisors responsible for enforcing safety and health standards and for investigating and correcting safety and health hazards in their work area(s).
- Ensuring safety managers implement and communicate procedures for responding to employee reports of unsafe or unhealthy working conditions.
- Ensuring that safety managers, industrial hygienists, work area supervisors, and staff work together to identify, evaluate, and eliminate or control actual and potential safety and health hazards in the workplace.

References

- U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Statistics and Inspection Data. Retrieved December 21, 1998 from <http://www.osha.gov/oshstats/>
- Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environmental Security. DoD Safety and Occupational Health Program, 6055.1. Retrieved February 3, 1999 from <http://www.acq.osd.mil/ens/sh/i60551p.pdf>

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