

COVID-19/OSHA Enforcement: Guidance Issued Referencing Frequently Violated Standards During Inspections



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The United States Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) issued on November 6th a guidance document titled:

Common COVID-19 Citations: Helping Employers Better Protect Workers and Comply with OSHA Regulations (“Guidance”)

The stated purpose of the *Guidance* is to help employers understand which OSHA standards have been cited most frequently during COVID-19 inspections.

The basis for the *Guidance* is stated to be:

... data from citations issued, many of which were the result of complaints, referrals and fatalities in industries such as hospitals and healthcare, nursing homes and long-term care facilities, and meat/poultry processing plants.

The *Guidance* also provides resources available to address the most frequently cited standards such as:

- Respiratory protection
- Recording and Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses
- Personal Protective Equipment
- General Duty Clause

Examples of requirements employers must follow include:

- Provide a medical evaluation before a worker is fit-tested or uses a respirator.
- Establish, implement, and update a written respiratory protection program with required worksite-specific procedures.
- Train workers to safely use respirators and/or other personal protection equipment in the workplace, and retrain workers about changes in the workplace that might make previous training obsolete.
- Store respirators and other personal protection equipment properly in a way to protect them from damage, contamination, and, where applicable, deformation of the facepiece and exhalation valve.
- Keep required records of work-related fatalities, injuries, and illness.

A copy of the *Guidance* can be downloaded [here](#).