



## Frequently Cited OSHA Standards—2023

OSHA keeps records not only of the most frequently cited standards overall but also within particular industries. Understanding these standards and taking proactive steps to avoid violations can go a long way toward ensuring workplace safety. When it comes to the manufacturing industry, the following standards were most cited in 2023:

1. **Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout)**—Year over year, poor lockout/tag-out practices regularly lead to violations for manufacturers. Per OSHA’s standards, any machine that has the potential to release energy must be set to a zero-energy state and locked to prevent the accidental start-up and release of that energy. To protect employees and avoid violations, businesses should create a written lockout/tag-out program that outlines machine-specific lockout/tag-out procedures, employee training practices and protocols for auditing the program annually.
2. **Machine guarding**—Failing to follow machine-guarding practices is not only a common source of injury, but it’s also a frequently cited OSHA standard in manufacturing. In general, machine guards are used to protect employees against direct contact with moving parts of equipment, debris, kickbacks, and mechanical and electrical failures. In general, OSHA requires that all machines include the proper guards. It should be noted that there are specific guarding protocols for individual machines, and employers will need to train their employees regularly on the appropriate machine-guarding protocols.
3. **Hazard communication**—Employees have the right to know about the hazards of chemicals they work with every day and what precautions they must take to remain safe on the job. That’s where hazard communication comes into play. Hazard communication programs typically include a written program, safety data sheets for all hazardous chemicals, an up-to-date list of chemicals, chemical labeling practices and employee training.
4. **Powered industrial trucks (PITs)**—PITs include fork trucks, motorized hand trucks and other vehicles used for moving materials. In terms of safety concerns, PITs often require more stopping distance, have limited visibility and are top-heavy. Complicating matters, PITs are also commonly used in close proximity to other workers, making it even more important to follow safety protocols. Specifically, operators must be properly trained and certified on PIT use. Equipment should also be inspected before use to ensure it is in a safe condition.
5. **Wiring methods, components and equipment for general use**—This standard refers to the practice of using the proper methods when wiring different setups. Requirements include following proper methods for temporary wiring, cable trays, electrical cabinets and switches.
6. **General electrical requirements**—This standard refers to the practice of examining, installing and using electrical equipment of different types, sizes, voltage and current capacity. Requirements include specifications for electrical connections, terminals, guarding live parts and working with 600 volts.
7. **Mechanical power transmission apparatus**—A power transmission apparatus (PTA) is what connects the point of operation to the power source. Common PTA components include belts, pulleys, chains, and sprockets. This standard provides requirements for guarding those components of a PTA.
8. **Process safety management of highly hazardous chemicals**—Process safety management is the safe management of highly hazardous chemicals. The standard includes applicable chemicals with thresholds, a written program, process hazard assessments, operating procedures, employee training and inspections.
9. **Duty to have fall protection and falling object protection**—This standard refers to the practice of identifying hazards and providing protections from those hazards when needed. Requirements include identifying, inspecting and assessing workplace conditions for fall or falling object hazards.
10. **General personal protective equipment (PPE) requirements**—This standard refers to providing, managing and maintaining the proper personal protective equipment for employees. Requirements include identifying required PPE, maintenance, sanitation, replacement and training.

For more information on these topics and how your business can protect its employees, contact ToughComp today.

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