

Excerpts from JJ Keller's Online Weekly Updates

- ESH News and Alerts -



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OSHA issues first set of new recordkeeping frequently asked questions

OSHA has issued the first set of new recordkeeping frequently asked questions (FAQs). The FAQs, which will be added to [Chapter 5](#) of CPL 02-00-131/CPL 2-0.131, cover the definition of a "company parking lot," professional sports teams exemptions, injuries occurring before employees clock in, recordability of work-related stress, terrorist attacks, second provider opinions, broken teeth, cap of 180 days for restricted work, musculoskeletal discomfort, smallpox vaccinations, which baseline is used to determine a recordable Standard Threshold Shift (STS), electronic posting of the annual summary, and several other issues that could lead to confusion where recordkeeping is concerned. [View the added questions](#)

OSHA cites contractor following fatal aerial lift incident

OSHA has cited a consultant contractor at the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) Cumberland City Power Generation Plant after a worker fell to his death on June 16. The agency is proposing \$89,000 in penalties.

OSHA investigators found that on the day of the fatal accident, before the worker fell 82 feet to the floor below, contractor employees had climbed back and forth several times between an aerial lift basket and a raised platform without the use of fall protection equipment.

"This tragic accident could have been prevented if the company had followed the manufacturer's safety instructions," said Ron McGill, OSHA's Nashville area director.

The company received one willful citation, with a proposed penalty of \$70,000 for allowing employees to climb from an aerial lift basket onto a raised platform without the use of fall protection equipment. OSHA issues a willful citation when an employer has shown intentional disregard of, or plain indifference to, the requirements of the Occupational Safety and Health Act and regulations.

OSHA also issued three serious citations to the company, with proposed penalties totaling \$19,000, for: failing to properly secure and steady a raised lift basket; allowing employees to work from the basket without requiring them to stand on its floor; and failing to adequately train employees and assure that they had the skill necessary to work from raised lift baskets.

NHTSA announces first global vehicle safety standard

The United States and more than 20 other nations have agreed on a new standard that will lead to safer vehicles worldwide. This "global standardization" effort establishes the first international vehicle safety regulation, Jeffrey W. Runge, M.D., Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, announced at a press conference in Geneva in mid-November. The new door retention standard is the result of three years of intensive research, development and negotiations. On the horizon are many additional standards that would regulate head restraints, motorcycle brakes, installation of lighting devices, vehicle window glazing and pedestrian safety. "This pioneering achievement paves the way for future vehicle improvements for motorists around the world," Runge said.

Ultimately, the new international standards, known as "Global Technical Regulations" or GTR's, will also lead to the adoption of best safety practices from all participating nations. In the end, reduced design and engineering costs should mean lower production costs for manufacturers and savings for consumers. The new door retention regulation is the first international vehicle safety standard to be established under "The 1998 Global Agreement," an accord reached by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), which includes the United States and many other countries from around the world.

At the 134th session of the World Forum for the Harmonization of Vehicle Regulations, countries that signed the 1998 agreement voted to establish the proposed standard, designed to improve door locks and door retention systems to help prevent injury and death due to passenger ejection. Among other elements, the new global standard will strengthen safety requirements and test procedures for sliding doors used on many passenger vehicles, including mini-vans and 15-passenger vans. NHTSA will publish a notice in the near future outlining the proposed new door standard for the US market.

Vehicle inspection and maintenance requirements updated by EPA

EPA has proposed updates to the Motor Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance (I/M) rule to reflect new, more protective air quality standards for ground-level ozone. Vehicle inspection and maintenance programs are important to state and local air quality improvement efforts because they can reduce air pollution by identifying passenger cars and light trucks with malfunctioning or worn-out emission controls. Only a few areas that do not currently meet the new 8-hour national ambient air quality ozone standard will need to establish an I/M program.

Updates to the I/M rule are necessary to synchronize I/M and 8-hour ozone standard regulatory deadlines and milestones. The updates will provide adequate flexibility to such state and local agencies' I/M programs. For additional information, visit www.epa.gov/otaq/epg/regs.htm.

Orthopedic surgeons provide tips to prevent winter sports injuries

At the sight of the first snowfall, kids and adults alike are eager to enjoy the variety of winter sports available. But according to the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, if precautions are not taken to ensure warmth and safety, severe injuries can occur.

Winter sports injuries get a lot of attention at hospital emergency rooms, doctors' offices and clinics. In 2003, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission reported 46,682 injuries from ice hockey; 52,831 injuries from ice skating; 91,086 injuries from sledding, snow tubing and tobogganing; 41,569 injuries from snowmobiling; 164,974 injuries from snow boarding; and 144,360 injuries from snow skiing. Injuries include sprains and strains, dislocations and fractures.

The American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons urges children and adults to follow the tips below for preventing winter sports injuries:

- Never participate alone in a winter sport.
- Keep in shape and condition muscles before partaking in winter activities.
- Cold muscles, tendons and ligaments are vulnerable to injury, so it is important to warm up thoroughly before playing.
- Wear appropriate protective gear, including goggles, helmets, gloves and padding.
- Check to make sure equipment is in good working order and used properly.
- For warmth and protection, wear several layers of light, loose and water- and wind-resistant clothing. Layering allows you to accommodate your body's constantly changing temperature.
- Wear proper footwear that provides warmth and dryness, as well as ample ankle support.
- Know and abide by all rules of the sport in which you are participating.
- Take a lesson (or several) from a qualified instructor, especially in sports like skiing and snow boarding. Learning how to fall correctly and safely can reduce the risk of injury.
- Pay attention to warnings about upcoming storms and severe drops in temperature to ensure safety.
- Seek shelter and medical attention immediately if you, or anyone with you, is experiencing hypothermia or frostbite. Make sure everyone is aware of proper procedures for getting help, if injuries occur.
- Drink plenty of water before, during and after activities.
- Avoid participating in sports when experiencing pain or exhaustion.

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