OSHA Adjusts Penalty Amounts for 2018

On Jan. 2, civil penalty amounts for violations of workplace safety and health standards increased by two percent from last year. In accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015, the Department of Labor is required to adjust penalties for inflation each year. New penalties for willful and repeat violations are $129,336 per violation; serious, other-than-serious, and posting requirements are $12,934 per violation; and failure to correct violations is $12,934 for each day the condition continues.

Below are the penalty amounts adjusted for inflation as of January 2, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of Violation</th>
<th>Penalty</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Serious Other-Than-Serious Posting Requirements</td>
<td>$12,934 per violation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Failure to Abate</td>
<td>$12,934 per day beyond the abatement date</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willful or Repeated</td>
<td>$129,336 per violation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Employers Must Post Injury and Illness Summary beginning February 1st

Remember to post a copy of OSHA Form 300A, which summarizes job-related injuries and illnesses logged during 2017. Each year, between Feb. 1 and April 30, the summary must be displayed in a common area where notices to employees are usually posted. Businesses with 10 or fewer employees and those in certain low-hazard industries are exempt from OSHA recordkeeping and posting requirements. You can visit OSHA’s Recordkeeping Rule webpage for more information on recordkeeping requirements.
Powered industrial trucks, commonly called forklifts or lift trucks, are used in many industries, primarily to move materials. They can be used to move, raise, lower, or remove large objects or a number of smaller objects on pallets or in boxes, crates, or other containers.

The hazards commonly associated with powered industrial trucks vary depending on the vehicle type and the workplace where the truck is used. Each type of truck presents different operating hazards. For example, a sit-down, counterbalanced high lift rider truck is more likely than a motorized hand truck to be involved in a falling load accident, because the sit-down rider truck can lift a load much higher than a hand truck. Workplace conditions also present different hazards. For example, retail establishments often face greater challenges than other worksites in maintaining pedestrian safety.

The best way to protect employees from injury also depends on the type of truck operated and worksite where it is being used.

This eTool* specifically provides information on OSHA’s Powered Industrial Truck requirements 29 CFR 1910.178 and industry best practices addressing:

**Types and Fundamentals**
This module reviews classes of commonly-used powered industrial trucks. This module reviews the classes of commonly-used powered industrial trucks. It also summarizes the major types of power sources used in powered industrial trucks and reviews safe practices for refueling and battery charging/changing operations. Finally, this module reviews the major parts of a powered industrial truck, including some of the potential hazards and possible solutions associated with each part.

**Operating the Forklift**
This module will identify recommended practices associated with each of the following operations: Pre-Operations, Traveling/Maneuvering and Load Handling.

**Understanding the Workplace**
Safely operating a forklift requires awareness of the conditions at your workplace. This module will identify potential hazards and possible solutions for aspects of the workplace such as: Pedestrian Traffic, Ramps/Grades, Loading Docks, Enclosed/Hazardous Areas, etc…

**Training Assistance**
Only trained and competent operators shall be permitted to operate a powered industrial truck. All powered industrial truck operators must be trained and certified by their organizations [29 CFR 1910.178(l)]. The module addressed training requirements, refresher training, certification and training programs.