



# Safety Scene

## Let the Countdown Begin: OSHA's Top 10 Safety Violations

by Molly E. Butz

Do you know what's on  
OSHA's most wanted list?

Each October, OSHA releases a list of the Top Ten Violations for its previous fiscal year, October through September. The list released for 2006 included many of the same violations that appear every year, many of which could occur in almost any industry, including ours. With that in mind, OSHA's Top Ten list is a great place to start for reviewing safety issues at your facility.

Let's start at the beginning. The following is the 2006 list of the top ten violations by name and standard number:

1. Scaffolding (1926.451)
- 2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200)**
3. Fall Protection (1926.501)
- 4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134)**
- 5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147)**
- 6. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178)**
- 7. Electrical Wiring (1910.305)**
- 8. Machine Guarding (1910.212)**
9. Ladders (1926.1056)
- 10. Electrical General (1910.303)**

Three of the 2006 Top Ten (one, three and nine) fall under OSHA's Safety and Health Regulations for Construction (Part 1926). These violations are specific to the building construction industry and don't apply to component manufacturing.

The remaining **seven violations** relate to standards that are important to comply with as a component manufacturer. Because every component manufacturing facility is unique, these standards will apply in various ways. Here are some considerations to keep your facility in tip-top shape.

**2. Hazard Communication (1910.1200).** Hazard communication is important to ensure that the risks associated with all of the potentially unsafe chemicals you use in your facility are passed on to your employees. A thorough hazard communication program should include container labeling/warnings, material safety data sheets (MSDS) and employee training. Chemicals in a component manufacturing facility that may fall into this category include cleaning agents, degreasers, flammables, greases, paints, pesticides, aerosols and compressed gases.

**4. Respiratory Protection (1910.134).** Breathing airborne contaminants, such as harmful dusts, can cause occupational illnesses. When possible, minimize contaminants by using engineering controls such as enclosures or local ventilation. If engineering controls are not feasible or are ineffective, proper personal protective equipment, for example a filtering facepiece (dust mask), can be used as your next line of defense. Respiratory protection may or may not be necessary in your component manufacturing facility. Should testing determine that respiratory protection is needed (the most likely place is your saw area), you will also be required to develop and implement a written respiratory protection program that includes worksite-specific procedures and employee training.

**5. Lockout/Tagout (1910.147).** Lockout/tagout examines the risks associated

Continued on page 18

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### at a glance

- OSHA's Top Ten list is a great place to start for reviewing safety issues at your facility.
- Three of the 2006 Top Ten (one, three and nine) fall under OSHA's Safety and Health Regulations for Construction (Part 1926) and don't apply to component manufacturing.
- The remaining seven violations relate to standards that are important to comply with as a component manufacturer.

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Continued from page 16

with performing maintenance on machinery where the “unexpected” start-up of the equipment, or release of stored energy could create a hazard. Requirements for lockout/tagout include a detailed written program and employee training.

**6. Powered Industrial Trucks (1910.178).** Powered Industrial Trucks, or forklifts, are often critical for transportation of materials in a component manufacturing facility. It is very important to keep the truck in good running condition and the operator(s) trained. Violations for forklifts include issues related to fire protection, maintenance, and use. For more information, visit **Support Docs** at [www.sbcmag.info](http://www.sbcmag.info) for links to the past **SBC** articles on this topic.

**7. Electrical Wiring (1910.305).** Standard 1910.305 deals with wiring methods related to “electrical continuity of metal raceways and enclosures,” “wiring in ducts,” and “temporary wiring.” This standard can affect all areas of a component manufacturing facility from the office building to the manufacturing area.

**8. Machine Guarding (1910.212).** As explored in August 2007 article “On Guard: A Closer Look at Safeguarding Your Manufacturing Equipment,” the machine guarding standard can affect component manufacturers. Machine guarding is

both simple and necessary, and most importantly can help prevent accidents and injuries. A walk-through will help you identify any outstanding machine guarding issues in your facility—such as missing, broken or deteriorated guards.

**10. Electrical General (1910.303).** This final standard covers the “examination, installation, and use of equipment.” In this case, the employer’s responsibility is to establish general safety requirements for employees designing electrical systems. For instance, an onsite maintenance person or crew would need to be trained for these safety requirements if they install or repair equipment in the shop.

Using OSHA’s 2006 Top Ten Violations list as a tool to identify areas of potential safety concern in your facility can help you provide a safer workplace. In addition, it’s beneficial to work together with your employees to make safety and health a priority. Involving your employees in making policies on safety and health issues, holding meetings that focus on safety and investing time and effort in a safety and health program are all things that can help build a positive safety culture in your component manufacturing facility. Safety first! **SBC**

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