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### Latest Posts

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#### 11.05.2018 [OSHA Announces Site-Specific Targeting Program to Focus Inspection Priorities at Establishments with High Injury and Illness Rates](#)

By Paul Jacobson, Helen Holden

Beginning October 16, 2018, employers with high injury and illness rates can expect more frequent OSHA inspections in connection with the resurrection of the agency's Site-Specific Targeting (SST) Program. OSHA will use the SST Program to prioritize employer facilities and establishments for health and safety inspections in the coming year.

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**01.24.2018** [EPA and OSHA Increase Civil Penalties](#)

By Paul Jacobson

In January 2018, both EPA and OSHA increased civil penalties for new enforcement cases. These increases are required by the Federal Civil Penalty Inflation Adjustment Act of 2015 (Inflationary Adjustment Act), which directs federal agencies to annually adjust civil penalties for inflation by January 15 of each new calendar year in order to "maintain the deterrent effect of civil penalties by translating originally enacted statutory civil penalty amounts to today's dollars." [83 Fed. Reg. 1190, at 1191 \(January 10, 2018\)](#).

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**12.19.2017** [It's Not Too Late to Complete OSHA Electronic Reporting](#)

By Paul Jacobson

December 15, 2017, was the deadline for employers to electronically submit information from work-related injuries and illnesses under OSHA's Electronic Reporting Rule. Nevertheless, OSHA [announced](#) on December 18, 2017, that it will continue accepting electronic submittals until midnight on December 31, 2017.

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**11.29.2017** [Deadline for OSHA Electronic Reporting Rule Delayed Until December 15, 2017](#)

By Paul Jacobson

OSHA has delayed the December 1, 2017, deadline for the Electronic Reporting Rule until December 15, 2017. This rule requires a wide range of establishments to electronically submit injury and illness information from their OSHA Forms 300A. The deadline extension was announced via a November 24, 2017, OSHA [notice](#) in the Federal Register.

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**11.21.2017** [Deadline for OSHA Electronic Reporting Rule Fast Approaching](#)

By Paul Jacobson

Employers have until December 1, 2017, to electronically submit injury and illness information from their 2016 Summary of Work-Related Injuries and Illnesses (Form 300A) under OSHA's 2016 [Improve Tracking of Workplace Injuries and Illnesses Rule](#) ("Electronic Reporting Rule" or "the Rule").

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**09.11.2017** [OSHA Issues New Guidance on Process Safety Management](#)

By Paul Jacobson, Andrew C. Brought

OSHA recently published a [guidance document](#) to help petroleum refineries comply with OSHA's Process Safety Management (PSM) standard, [29 CFR 1910.119](#), distilling lessons learned by OSHA over the past ten years from the Petroleum Refinery PSM National Emphasis Program (NEP). The OSHA guidance serves as a road map for process safety professionals to understand specific areas that OSHA will focus on during a PSM audit and areas most likely for OSHA to find gaps in PSM programs.

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**02.05.2017** [EPA and OSHA Increase Civil Penalties – Days Before New Administration](#)

By Andrew C. Brought

In January 2017, both EPA and OSHA increased civil penalties for new enforcement cases. While the increases became effective just days before the new Administration took office, the increases are a result of Congressional action in 2015 to annually adjust civil penalties for inflation by January 15 of each new calendar year.

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**03.27.2016** [New OSHA Silica Dust Rule to Impact Over 675,000 Workplaces, Biggest Impact on Construction Industry](#)

By Andrew C. Brought

On March 25, 2016, 81 Fed. Reg. 16286, OSHA issued a new final rulemaking to reduce silica dust exposure that will directly affect more than 2 million construction workers who drill, cut, crush, or grind silica-containing materials such as concrete and stone, and 300,000 workers in general industry operations such as brick manufacturing, foundries, and hydraulic fracturing. OSHA explains that silica dust exposure occurs in common workplace operations involving cutting, sawing, drilling, and crushing of concrete, brick, block, rock, and stone products (such as construction tasks), and operations using sand products (such as in glass manufacturing, foundries, sand blasting, and hydraulic fracturing).

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**03.26.2016** [EPA to Focus on RMP Chemical Accident Prevention and Safety, Issues Proposed Rule and Will Increase Enforcement](#)

By Andrew C. Brought

Businesses that store and use flammable and toxic chemicals that are regulated under EPA's Risk Management Plan (RMP) Program at 40 CFR Part 68 need to be aware of recent actions by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency aimed at curtailing chemical accidents and releases through new proposed regulations and also enforcement. Facilities potentially subject to EPA's initiatives include chemical plants and refineries, POTWs that use chlorine as a disinfectant, as well as those companies that use and store bulk anhydrous ammonia as an industrial refrigerant (dairy operations, food and pharmaceutical manufacturing, cold storage warehousing) or as fertilizer (agricultural cooperatives, fertilizer distribution).

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**02.27.2016** [OSHA to Focus Enforcement at Manufacturing Facilities in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska](#)

By Andrew C. Brought

Earlier this month, OSHA Region VII announced that it was launching a new Region-wide Local Emphasis Program in Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska designed to address certain industries viewed by OSHA as high-hazard manufacturing industries because the injury and illness rates exceed the average for the private sector.

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