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OSHA Issues Revised Standard Regarding Record Requirements For Mechanical Power Presses

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On November 20, 2013, the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration issued a notice of a proposed revision to the standard pertaining to mechanical power presses.

The proposed revision modifies the current "provision that requires employers to develop and maintain certification records of periodic inspections performed on the presses by adding a requirement that they develop and maintain certification records of any maintenance and repairs they perform on the presses during the periodic inspections."

Additionally, OSHA is proposing to remove the requirement from another provision which requires companies to develop and maintain certification records of weekly inspections and tests performed on the presses.

According to OSHA's press release, "[r]emoving the requirement to develop and maintain weekly certification records for inspections and tests will not affect an employer's obligation to inspect and ensure that mechanical power presses used in the workplace are in a safe operating condition."

OSHA's notice of proposed revision posted in the *Federal Register* claimed that "[t]his rulemaking is part of the Department of Labor's initiative to reduce paperwork burden; it will remove 613,600 hours of unnecessary paperwork burden for employers, while maintaining employee protection."

The proposed revision will become effective on February 18, 2014, unless OSHA receives significant adverse comments.

The *Federal Register* notice of proposed revision can be

found at: <https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2013/11/20/2013-27695/record-requirements-in-the-mechanical-power-presses-standard>.

Power presses are machines that can maim

Mechanical power presses are machines and therefore they can be dangerous. The most common injury caused by these machines is amputation — each year about 18,000 workers in the US have injuries involving amputations and lacerations.

Would require employers to "develop and maintain certification records of any maintenance and repairs performed ..."

OSHA requires that barriers guards be in place to cover the points where an operator might come in contact with the moving parts of the machine. The barrier guards must be secured in such a way as to prevent the hands and fingers from reaching the point of operation by going under, over, through or around the guard. Restraints, which secure machine operators in place, are another type of machine guarding option that make it impossible for operators to come into contact with the point of operation.

Further, OSHA requires that anti-repeat features must be in safe operating order to prevent the press from making repetitive motions, i.e., limit presses to only a single stroke at a time to maximize operator safety. The OSHA standard for anti-repeat features is that they must be inspected and tested no less than weekly to make sure they are functioning properly.

While the proposed revision of the standard for mechanical power presses, effective February 18, 2014, will remove the requirement for employers to develop and maintain a certification record of the weekly inspections and tests, it retains the requirement to develop and maintain a certification record for maintenance work. Employers must still disclose inspections, maintenance and, or repair records to OSHA during an inspection.

OSHA estimates that a press operator takes 20 minutes to inspect and maintain a mechanical power press to the necessary certification.

American Red Cross and OSHA to host free webcast on bloodborne pathogens

A webcast, "Bloodborne Pathogens — What You Need to Know to Prevent Disease Transmission in the Workplace," will be presented by OSHA and the American Red Cross Alliance on Jan. 8, 2014, from 2:00 to 3:00 pm EST.

The webcast will include an overview of the Needlestick Safety and Prevention Act, OSHA's bloodborne pathogens standard, prevention of exposure, follow-up to exposure and required worker training, as well as recordkeeping and personal protective equipment, and training requirements.

Through their alliance, OSHA and the Red Cross are working together to help prepare employers and their workers to respond to disasters, life-threatening injuries and emergencies. Through the Alliance Program, OSHA works with groups committed to worker safety and health to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and death.

The speakers for the webcast are Sheila Arbury, RN, MPH, COHN-S, a health scientist, and Mike Pannell, PhD, CIH, a senior industrial hygienist, both with OSHA. Lisa Silverman, director of workplace safety training with American Red Cross, will moderate.

To register for the free webcast visit: vts.inxpo.com/Launch/QReg.htm?ShowKey=17604&AffiliateData=OSH Aeblast.

Whistleblowers can now file complaints online

OSHA announced in a press release Dec. 5, 2013, that workers are now able to "electronically submit a whistleblower complaint to OSHA. Complaints filed are automatically routed to the appropriate regional whistleblower investigators. The website for filing a complaint is www.osha.gov/whistleblower/WBComplaint.html.

Want to look up an OSHA Standard online?

An OSHA standard is a regulation issued by OSHA after proper notice and comment, that sets a minimum requirement in some area of practice or activity over which OSHA has authority. To read an OSHA standard that may affect your business, go to https://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owasrch.search_f orm?p_doc_type=STANDARDS&p_toc_level=0&p_keyvalue=

CITATIONS & FINES

K.R. DRENTH TRUCKING DBA KRD TRUCKING
 8020 Bluegrass Dr., Florence
 Inspection site: 8020 Bluegrass Dr., Florence
 9-11-13 **\$62,200**

Repeat Serious

- Employee walking across trash in trailer to unroll mesh tarp, and employees climbing on tops of trailers to clean them, were not using fall protection. \$35,000
- Employer did not use engineering or work practice controls to minimize or eliminate employees' exposure to blood or other potential infection material. \$21,250

Serious

- Employer did not provide potable water for employees working at trash transfer site and picking up loose trash on the yard. \$3,400
- Employer did not provide lavatories for employees working at trash transfer site and picking up loose trash on the yard. \$2,550

Other

- Employer did not provide toilets for employees working at trash transfer site and picking up loose trash on the yard. \$0

GENERAL ELECTRIC CO.
 4000 Buechel Bank Road, Louisville
 Inspection site: 4000 Buechel Bank Road, Louisville
 9-11-13 **\$33,100**

Serious

- Two employees were working on top of an apron conveyor at least 15 feet above ground with no fall protection. \$7,000
- Energy-control procedures for apron conveyor had not been conducted since December 2010. \$7,000
- Employees working on apron conveyor did not know all types of energy and energy-control methods. \$7,000
- Employees working on apron conveyor did not use lock-out/tagout or other energy-isolating devices. \$7,000
- Employees working on apron conveyor did not restrain or render platforms and chains safe from potential gravitational force or energy. \$0
- Maintenance employee working on apron conveyor did not have personal lock on equipment being worked on. \$4,250