OSHA's Top 10 Most Frequent Cited Standards

OSHA | Fiscal Year 2025

OSHA's annual Top 10 list highlights the standards most frequently cited during federal inspections. For business leaders, the list is a useful reminder of recurring hazards and a practical starting point for reviewing safety programs before an inspection or injury exposes a gap.

BRIEF AT A GLANCE	Fiscal Year 2025: Fall Protection remains OSHA's most frequently cited standard. For manufacturers, Lockout/Tagout, Machine Guarding, Hazard Communication and Powered Industrial Trucks remain recurring compliance priorities.

What Changed From 2023?

The 2023 article identified the same ten broad standards that appear in OSHA's FY 2025 Top 10, but the order has shifted. Fall Protection - General Requirements remains No. 1, while Lockout/Tagout moved to No. 4, Respiratory Protection to No. 5, and Powered Industrial Trucks to No. 8.

WHAT TO KNOW	OSHA publishes the Top 10 to help employers identify and correct recognized hazards before OSHA arrives. Use the list as a planning tool - not as a substitute for reviewing the hazards and standards that apply to your own operations.

Why this Matters

The overall Top 10 combines construction and general-industry standards, so it should not be read as a manufacturing-specific ranking. OSHA's Fiscal Year 2025 manufacturing data provides a more focused view: Lockout/Tagout, Machine Guarding, Hazard Communication and Powered Industrial Trucks are among the recurring standards cited.

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Fiscal Year 2025 Top 10 - Federal OSHA, All Industries

1. Fall Protection - General Requirements (1926.501)
2. Hazard Communication - General Industry (1910.1200)
3. Ladders - Construction (1926.1053)
4. Control of Hazardous Energy / Lockout-Tagout (1910.147)
5. Respiratory Protection - General Industry (1910.134)
6. Scaffolding - Construction (1926.451)
7. Fall Protection Training - Construction (1926.503)
8. Powered Industrial Trucks - General Industry (1910.178)
9. Eye and Face Protection - Construction (1926.102)
10. Machine Guarding - General Industry (1910.212)

A useful review does not stop with the national ranking. OSHA's database can be searched by industry and NAICS code,

A Practical Review for Leadership

Use the list as a conversation starter. Review whether written programs are current, required training is completed and documented, safeguards and PPE are in place, equipment inspections are occurring, and supervisors understand how requirements are implemented in daily operations. The goal is not simply to prepare for an OSHA inspection - it is to identify recurring exposures before they contribute to an injury.

WHAT TO KNOW	The national Top 10 can hide the most relevant general-industry exposures. OSHA's Fiscal Year 2025 manufacturing data places Lockout/Tagout first, followed by Machine Guarding and Hazard Communication - making industry-specific review especially valuable.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). FY 2025 Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards and Frequently Cited Standards database. Accessed October 2026.

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