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OSHA'S TOP 10 IN 2006

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Report lists most frequently cited standards – Scaffolding, hazard communication and fall protection are once again among the most frequently cited standards by OSHA, reports Safety & Health magazine.

The latest report ranks the standards OSHA most often used in 2006 to smack violators with citations.

They are:

1. Scaffolding
2. Hazard communication
3. Fall protection
4. Respiratory protection
5. Lockout/tagout
6. Powered industrial trucks
7. Electrical wiring
8. Machine guarding
9. Ladders
10. Electrical



GAO WANTS MORE CONGRESSIONAL OVERSIGHT

Occupational safety on the list

It might be a good idea to review workplace regulations and other government activities to ensure workplace safety is being provided, the Government Accountability Office suggested in a report to Congress last month.

The report laid out for members of Congress several areas within the government that GAO believes are in need of oversight, one of which is workplace safety. Driving the need is the changing nature of work and dramatic changes in the workforce itself. It's important for government regulations and other activities to reflect these changing conditions, it said.

Key areas GAO suggested for oversight:

- Determine how well OSHA's enforcement program has adapted to changes in the workforce.
- Assess the effectiveness of OSHA's recent efforts to assist employers in improving the safety and health of workers.
- Examine the impact of recent efforts by the Mine Safety and Health Administration to protect the safety and health of mine workers.
- Assess the preparedness of federal agencies to protect their employees in emergencies, while relying on a multi-sector workforce to perform its essential operations and return to normal operations.

Source: Safety Currents Express