



OSHA Penalties 2017

OSHA VIOLATION CATEGORIES & THEIR PENALTY RANGE

Safety by REQUEST has created this overview of some OSHA violation classifications and the *financial* penalties involved with each. It is for general reference only, and is not intended to replace or modify the detailed and more comprehensive violation and penalty information that can be found at www.OSHA.gov.

It should be noted that **OSHA penalties were significantly increased in 2016**, and that the information below reflects the penalties as of January 1, 2017.

"POSTING VIOLATION"

When a violation of a posting requirement is cited, if the proposed penalty is less than \$250, a **\$250 penalty (the minimum)** shall be issued. But for a more serious posting violation, the penalty could be up to the **maximum penalty of \$12,471**.

"OTHER-THAN-SERIOUS VIOLATIONS"

These violations **may not result in a financial penalty** if they do not present or have a low probability of resulting in serious physical harm. If the proposed penalty would amount to *less than \$100*, the employer would not be issued a financial penalty. But if the violation is more serious, or has a higher probability, the penalty could be up to the **maximum penalty of \$12,471**.

"SERIOUS VIOLATIONS"

Serious Violations are those that have a higher probability and could inflict serious physical harm or be fatal to an employee. These violations generally reflect hazards that an employer should have been aware of and controlled. For serious violations with a proposed penalty of less than \$891, the **minimum penalty would be \$891**. For others, the penalty would be higher, up to the **maximum penalty of \$12,471**.

"WILLFUL VIOLATIONS"

These are health or safety violations that an employer willfully or intentionally commits. OSHA may impose a penalty of up to **\$124,709** but not less than **\$8,908**.

"REPEAT VIOLATIONS"

If an employer is cited for a violation during an inspection and then, upon a re-inspection within the next five years, is found to have committed the same or a substantially similar violation, there may be a **penalty up to \$124,709**.

"FAILURE TO ABATE"

After receiving an OSHA citation, if the violation is not corrected within the prescribed abatement period, the employer may be penalized up to the initial amount of the penalty for each additional day. **Maximum penalty of \$12,471 per day** (usually up to 30 days).

CRIMINAL PENALTIES

For some safety related acts, such as falsifying records, assaulting a compliance officer, or willfully disregarding compliance that leads to a fatality, an employer may be sentenced to imprisonment. For additional information refer to www.OSHA.gov.

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and is not intended to replace or modify any federal, state or regulatory standard.