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E - NEWSLETTER

Reinhart OSHA E-News

Electronic Volume 2, Issue 5

7/2/03

ATTORNEYS:

[Jeffrey P. Clark](#)
[John H. Zawadsky](#)
[Robert K. Sholl](#)
[Lynn M. Stathas](#)
[Donald P. Gallo](#)
[David J. Sisson](#)
[Raymond M. Roder](#)
[Christopher P. Banaszak](#)
[Carolyn A. Sullivan](#)
[John G. Pawley](#)
[Robert J. Muten](#)
[Daryll J. Neuser](#)
[Kirstin A. Goetz](#)
[Martin A. Machtan](#)

1000 North Water Street
 P.O. Box 2965
 Milwaukee, Wisconsin
 53201-2965
 414-298-1000
 800-553-6215

22 East Mifflin Street
 P.O. Box 2018
 Madison, Wisconsin
 53701-2018
 608-229-2200
 800-728-6239

W233 N2080
 Ridgeview Parkway
 P.O. Box 2265
 Waukesha, Wisconsin
 53187-2265
 262-951-4500
 800-928-5529

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Are You A "High-Hazard" Employer?

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration of the U.S. Department of Labor recently announced its 2003 "site-specific targeting plan." Under the plan, OSHA will target approximately 3,200 "high-hazard" worksites for unannounced comprehensive safety and health inspections over the coming year.

OSHA has used "site-specific targeting" for the last five years. The concept is to target employers for inspection based upon injury and illness data provided by the employer. The 2003 program utilizes data submitted by employers as part of OSHA's 2002 Data Initiative.

This year's plan was effective June 16, 2003, and will initially cover about 3,200 employers that reported 14.0 or more injuries or illnesses resulting in lost work days or restricted activity for every 100 full-time workers. This number is known as the Lost Work Day Injury and Illness (LWDII) rate. The average LWDII rate in 2001 for private industry in the nation was 2.8. In 2003, employers with a LWDII equaling or exceeding 14.0 will be inspected by OSHA.

For the first time, however, OSHA has utilized a second numerical rate, called the "Days Away from Work Injury and Illness" (DAFWII) rate, to target employers for inspection. The average DAFWII rate in 2001 for private industry was 1.7. In 2003, employers that reported a DAFWII rate of 9.0 or higher will also receive first inspection priority.

[version](#)

Employers which reported LWDII rates of between 8.0 and 14.0, or DAFWII rates of between 4.0 and 9.0, will be placed on a secondary list for possible inspection by OSHA.

If you would like assistance in calculating the LWDII and DAFWII for your organization to evaluate your risk for inspection by OSHA, or to prepare for an OSHA inspection, please contact Jeffrey P. Clark or Daryll J. Neuser of our OSHA Practice Group.

OSHA Practice Group E-Newsletter is an electronic publication of the law firm of Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c., and is prepared by attorneys in its OSHA Practice Group. This publication is intended to afford timely notice to our clients and friends of current events in OSHA regulations and to provide general information about OSHA issues. It is not intended, nor should it be used, as a substitute for specific legal advice regarding particular factual situations.

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