

Crandall Compliance Alert

OSHA Increases Inspections and Penalties

Every day, about 14 Americans fail to come home from work to their families. Tens of thousands die from workplace disease and more than 4.6 million workers are seriously injured on the job annually. The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration, in an effort to address urgent safety and health problems facing Americans in the workplace, is implementing a new Enforcement Program and increasing civil penalty amounts.

“For many employers, investing in job safety happens only when they have adequate incentives to comply with OSHA's requirements,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. *“Higher penalties and more aggressive, targeted enforcement will provide a greater deterrent and further encourage these employers to furnish safe and healthy workplaces for their employees. OSHA inspections and penalties must be large enough to discourage employers from cutting corners or underfunding safety programs to save a few dollars.”*

The current maximum penalty for a serious violation, one capable of causing death or serious physical harm, is only \$7,000 and the maximum penalty for a willful violation is \$70,000. The Protecting America's Workers Act would raise these penalties, for the first time since 1990, to \$12,000 and \$250,000, respectively. The average penalty for a serious violation will increase from about \$1,000 to an average \$3,000 to \$4,000. Companies subject to penalties may be eligible for a 20 percent penalty reduction for retention of an outside safety and health consultant/provider such as Crandall Corporation.

Increased Budget and Personnel

- OSHA budget increase of \$50M for FY2010;
- OSHA has hired or will be hiring 160 Inspectors;
- Region IV has already increased staff by 31, most for enforcement.

Crandall Corporation's Integrated Compliance Management program is designed to provide you peace of mind while protecting people, assets, and the environment. Our Compliance staff has over 200 years EH&S experience, and our program provides a defensible position for regulatory agency inspections.