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OSHA Identifies 14,000 Workplaces with High Injury and Illness Rates

OSHA announced this week that it has identified approximately 14,000 employers that it has notified because their injury and illness rates at their worksites are “higher than average.” OSHA suggests that its assistance is available to help employers “fix safety and health hazards.”

Jonathan L. Snare, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor, said in his letter to employers that the notification was a proactive step to encourage employers to take steps now to reduce those rates and improve the safety and health environment in their workplaces. “This identification process is meant to raise awareness that injuries and illnesses are high at these facilities,” Snare said. “Injuries and illnesses are costly to employers in both personal and financial terms. Our goal is to identify workplaces where injury and illness rates are high, and to offer assistance to employers so they can address the hazards and reduce occupational injuries and illnesses.”

Employers were identified by OSHA through employer-reported data from a 2004 survey of 80,000 worksites. The workplaces identified had 6.5 or more injuries or illnesses resulting in days away from work, restricted work activity, or job transfer (DART) for every 100 full-time workers. The national average during 2003 was 2.6 DART instances for every 100 workers.

Employers receiving the letters were also provided copies of their injury and illness data, along with a list of the most frequently violated OSHA standard for their specific industry. OSHA has also offered the Agency's assistance in helping turn the numbers around, suggesting, among other things, the use of free safety and health consultation services provided by OSHA through the states, state workers' compensation agencies, insurance carriers, or outside safety and health consultants.

The 14,000 workplaces, in over 550 SIC code industries, are listed in a database provided publicly on OSHA's website which can be viewed by clicking [here](#).

Questions regarding this announcement should be addressed to Brent Clark at (312) 269-8876 or bclark@seyfarth.com or the Environmental, Safety & Toxic Tort Attorney with whom you normally work.



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