

OSHA CORNERSTONES

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OSHA Recommends the Use of Leading Indicators

OSHA recently launched a new webpage encouraging safer workplaces through the use of leading indicators.

Leading indicators are proactive and preventive measures that can shed light on the effectiveness of safety and health activities, and reveal potential problems in a safety and health program.

One example of a leading indicator may be the amount of time it takes to respond to a safety hazards report. Responding to a report more quickly demonstrates an increased commitment to workplace safety, but a slower response can have the opposite effect. This means hazards may remain unaddressed. It could also make your employees feel like they are not being listened to, and therefore less likely to report other problems.

Some employers might be more familiar with lagging indicators, which measure the frequency and causes of incidents that have occurred in the past. Leading and lagging indicators can work well together in safety and health programs to both measure problems from the past and help plan for a better future.

In addition to keeping your employees safe, using leading indicators can also save companies money. Analysis of your workplace for risks and hazards can lower your costs for repairs, workers' compensation, and legal and other regulatory expenses. Fixing problems that may be revealed by leading indicators can also result in more efficiency in your regular workflow.

For more information on leading indicators, visit OSHA's [webpage](#).

OSHA Requests Information on the Silica Standard for Construction

OSHA recently requested information on new engineering and work-practice control methods to limit exposure to silica for equipment and tasks listed in Table 1. Stakeholders are being asked to submit information about construction equipment and tasks that should possibly be added to Table 1, as well as the engineering and control methods associated with them.

In addition, OSHA is seeking input on revising the respirable crystalline silica standard for general industry in order to widen circumstances in which general industry and maritime employers would be permitted to comply with Table 1 for construction.

The deadline for comments is Oct. 14, 2019. For more information or to submit your information, click [here](#).



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Benefits of OSHA's On-site Consultation Program

While maintaining workplace health and safety is a top priority for most businesses, it can be a challenge. This is particularly true for smaller companies that lack the time, knowledge and resources to appropriately address the hazards that threaten their workers and business the most. To help these organizations identify and mitigate health and safety concerns, OSHA created the On-site Consultation Program.

This free, confidential service gives small and mid-sized businesses direct access to risk control advice. Through the On-site Consultation Program, employers can discover potential hazards at their worksites, improve their occupational safety and health management systems, and even qualify for a one-year exemption from routine OSHA inspections.

The service is offered through state governments using highly trained professionals. Most consultations take place on-site, though limited services away from the worksite are also available. In addition, no citations or penalties are issued during the consultation process.

Confidentiality is maintained during the consultation process. The consultant will only report hazard information to OSHA if the employer fails to correct an imminent danger or serious hazards.

Above all, enrolling in the On-site Consultation Program can help organizations:

- Recognize and remove hazards in their workplace.
- Protect workers from injury and illness.
- Educate employees on workplace hazards and encourage them to take ownership of workplace safety.
- Improve employee morale.
- Comply with federal and state safety and health requirements.
- Increase productivity rates and assure product quality.
- Decrease workers' compensation costs.

Because the service is voluntary, employers have to submit a request in order to receive a consultation. To do this, you will need to find your local program's office using [OSHA's Consultation Directory](#). Once a consultant is assigned to you, they will discuss your specific needs and set up a visit date based on your work schedule and the time needed to appropriately assess your business's risks.

To learn more about the program and the consultation process, click [here](#).



Why Assess Workplace Hazards?

According to the most recent data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, there were approximately

2.8 million
workplace injuries and illnesses in 2017,

occurring at a rate of 2.8 cases per 100 full-time workers.