



Five Inspections OSHA Conducts

1. **Imminent Danger.** Given the highest priority by OSHA, an imminent danger is any condition where there is reasonable certainty that a danger exists that could cause death or serious physical harm immediately or before the danger can be eliminated through normal enforcement procedures. When an imminent danger situation is found, the compliance officer will ask the employer to voluntarily abate the hazard and to remove endangered employees from exposure. Should the employer refuse, OSHA will apply to the nearest federal District Court for legal action to correct the situation.
2. **Catastrophic and Fatal Accidents.** OSHA's second priority is given to the investigation of fatalities and catastrophes resulting in hospitalization of three or more employees from a single incident.
3. **Employee Complaints.** Each employee has the right to request an OSHA inspection when the employee feels that he or she is in imminent danger from a hazard or when he or she feels that there is a violation of an OSHA standard that threatens physical harm. If the employee so requests, OSHA will withhold the employee's name from the employer. This category can quickly become elevated to the top priority, based on the nature of the complaint.
4. **Programmed High Hazard Inspections.** OSHA establishes programs of inspection aimed at specific high hazard industries, occupations, or health hazards. Workplaces are selected for inspection on the basis of death, illness and injury rates, employee exposure to toxic substances, and the like.
5. **Re-Inspections.** Establishments cited for alleged serious violations may be re-inspected to determine whether the hazards have been corrected and/or the company has complied with the OSHA regulations.

*Excerpted from **The Facility Manager's Guide to Environmental Health and Safety** by Brian J. Gallant, ISBN: 0-86587-187-6 (978-0-86587-187-8). To order this book, or to view a complete list of available compliance and management resources—including all 50 Titles of the Code of Federal Regulations—call our customer service center or visit us online.*