



# Top 10 OSHA Citations: 2014

Patrick Kapust, Deputy Director of OSHA's Directorate of Enforcement Programs announced the list of the 10 most cited OSHA violations for 2014.<sup>[1]</sup> As in 2013, three of the top ten citations were for electrically-related violations:



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|--|-------------------|
| 1. Fall Protection                         | (1926.501)        |
| 2. Hazard Communication (Chemical)         | (1910.1200)       |
| 3. Scaffolding                             | (1926.451)        |
| 4. Respiratory Protection                  | (1910.134)        |
| 5. Powered Industrial Trucks               | (1910.178)        |
| <b>6. Lockout/Tagout</b>                   | <b>(1910.147)</b> |
| 7. Ladders                                 | (1926.1053)       |
| <b>8. Electrical Wiring Methods</b>        | <b>(1910.305)</b> |
| 9. Machine Guarding                        | (1910.212)        |
| <b>10. General Electrical Requirements</b> | <b>(1910.303)</b> |

According to ANSI/ASSE Z10, NFPA 70E and CSA Z462, the most effective way to protect personnel (and therefore plant assets and process uptime) is through "**Hazard Elimination**,"<sup>[2,3,4]</sup> i.e. De-energize and Lockout/Tagout. Unfortunately, too many facilities are not actively enforcing this simple and foundational safety principle, as evidenced by it's #6 rank on this list.



When de-energizing is not feasible, such as when performing diagnostics like infrared or ultrasound scans, facilities should consider eliminating the high-risk task of opening the doors or panels. Closed-panel inspections using infrared (IR) windows, visual inspection windows and ultrasound ports are inherently safer, because energized conductors continue to be enclosed and guarded and in "normal operating condition." The work task reduces risk of shock and arc flash hazards to "as low as reasonably practicable." In addition to the de-risked work process being inherently safer and more efficient, it is also inherently compliant with NFPA 70E and CSA Z462 standards, and therefore compliant with OSHA and CSA directives.

For more information about electrical safety and tools that make safe electrical work practices and compliance easier or automatic, visit [www.Exiscan.com](http://www.Exiscan.com).

<sup>1</sup> United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, "Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards," available at: [https://www.osha.gov/Top\\_Ten\\_Standards.html](https://www.osha.gov/Top_Ten_Standards.html)

<sup>2</sup> American Society of Safety Engineers, ANSI/ASSE Z10-2012, *Occupational Safety and Health Management Systems*, Sec 5.1.2, p 15

<sup>3</sup> National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 70E-2015, *Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace*, Sec 110.1(G), p 16

<sup>4</sup> Canadian Standards Association, CSA Z462-2015, *Workplace Electrical Safety*, Sec 4.1.5.7, p 25,26