

OSHA CHARGES FIRM WITH 197 ALLEGED VIOLA- TIONS; PROPOSES \$1.09 MILLION IN PENALTIES

On March 27, 1991, OSHA cited Monfort, Inc., Grand Island, Neb., for 97 alleged violations of workplace safety rules and proposed fines totaling \$1,092,100.

The Grand Island facility, which is owned by ConAgra, Inc., is a beef meat packer. Monfort, Inc. and its subsidiaries employ about 16,000 persons nationwide.

EGREGIOUS LOCKOUT/ TAGOUT

The citations include 105 alleged egregious willful, two alleged willful, 75 alleged serious, three alleged repeat, and 12 other violations. They include the egregious citations issued by OSHA under its new lockout/tagout standard.

"This company has been inspected by OSHA on different occasions and has not yet fully committed to improve or upgrade working conditions for its employees," OSHA Regional Administrator John Phillips said.

FATALITY

In this latest instance an employee at the Monfort plant was killed when proper lockout/tagout procedures were not followed, OSHA said. The company indicated it was aware of the OSHA lockout/tagout standard. But Monfort did not formulate a plan adequate to address existing hazards, OSHA said.

The evidence obtained during OSHA's latest inspection demonstrates disregard for lockout/tagout and machine guarding safeguards.

MACHINE GUARDING

OSHA cited the company for 57 alleged violations of machine guarding standards with each instance carrying a proposed fine of \$10,000 for a total of \$570,000.

The agency also alleges 12 instances of unguarded sprocket chains with proposed fines of \$8,000 for each instance, a total of \$96,000. Monfort was also cited for 18 instances - at \$10,000 per violation - where procedures for lockout were allegedly not utilized, a total of \$180,000. Also, 18 instances, of lack of training on lockout/tagout procedures at \$10,000 each, a total of \$180,000.

"An employer's commitment to worker safety and health finally plays out on the shop floor," Phillips said. "Inadequate programs, lack of machine guarding, and superficial training translates into worker injuries and deaths.

"The day-to-day actions necessary to prevent those occurrences ultimately lie with the employer."

The alleged willful violations include a proposed \$10,000 fine for not providing new equipment with energy isolating devices designed to accept lockout devices and \$10,000 for having an unguarded mechanical power transmission system.

OSHA ASSISTANCE

For OSHA compliance assistance, including on-site simulated OSHA inspections, OSHA training, etc., contact ELB & Associates, Inc. Don't wait until the OSHA inspector arrives to find out what needs to be done. Also, ensure that your safety and health program includes OSHA and EPA compliance activities.

SUMMARY

Proposed Penalties - Monfort Inc.

Willful Egregious

57 (machine guarding) @ \$10,000	\$570,000
12 (unguarded sprocket/chain) @ \$8,000	\$96,000
18 (unused lockout/tagout procedures) @ \$10,000	\$180,000
18 (lack of lockout/tagout training) @ \$10,000	\$180,000

Willful

1 (new equipment not designed to accept lockout devices)	\$10,000
1 (unguarded power transmission)	\$10,000

Repeat and serious

75 Serious (various)	\$41,300
3 Repeat	\$4,800

Other

12	0
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Total \$1,092,100 Proposed Penalties - Monfort Inc.

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ELB