



Employers to Face Increased OSHA Penalties For 2025: How You Should Develop Your Workplace Safety Strategy for the New Year

Insights

1.14.25

Employers will face higher penalties for workplace safety violations in 2025 now that the U.S. Department of Labor has just published its listing of annual increases. These yearly increases to OSHA's maximum civil penalties will apply to all workplace safety citations issued by the agency beginning January 16 – including for employers who currently have an open inspection with the agency. Here are the key changes you need to know about and steps you can take to ensure you provide a safe workplace for your employees.

Summary of Penalties

Increased OSHA Penalties for 2025

Increased penalties will apply to all OSHA citations beginning **January 16**

Category of Violation	2024 Penalties	2025 Penalties
Serious	Minimum: \$1,190 Maximum: \$16,131	Minimum: \$1,221 Maximum: \$16,550
Other Than Serious	Minimum: \$0 Maximum: \$16,131	Minimum: \$0 Maximum: \$16,550
Willful	Minimum: \$11,524 Maximum: \$161,323	Minimum: \$11,823 Maximum: \$165,514
Repeated	Minimum: \$11,524 Maximum: \$161,323	Minimum: \$11,823* Maximum: \$165,514
Posting Requirement	Minimum: \$0 Maximum: \$16,131	Minimum: \$0 Maximum: \$16,550
Failure to Abate	Minimum: N/A Maximum: \$16,131 per day unabated beyond abatement day (generally limited to 30 days maximum)	Minimum: N/A Maximum: \$16,550 per day unabated beyond abatement day (generally limited to 30 days maximum)

***NOTE: a repeated other-than-serious violation that otherwise would have no initial penalty shall result in a proposed Gravity Based Penalty of \$472 for the first repeated violation, \$1,182 for the second, and \$2,364 for a third repetition**



Again, these penalties will apply to all citations issued by OSHA beginning January 16, including for employers who currently have an open inspection with OSHA.

You can count on OSHA to continue increasing civil penalties in January each year. In 2015, Congress passed the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act to adjust monetary penalties assessed by OSHA and other agencies. The aim of this law was to adjust these penalties for inflation and to continue to deter violations of federal laws intended to protect workers.

What Should You Do?

Make sure you understand how to interact with OSHA before accepting any citations without contest or [paying](#) these penalties. You can start by reviewing our [Frequently Asked Questions for Employers About OSHA](#) and coordinating with your FP counsel.

If you do business in a state where a state agency rather than Federal OSHA enforces the Occupational Safety and Health Act (such as Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina, California, or any of the 22 State Plans covering both private sector and state and local government workers, or the seven state plans covering only state and local government workers), recognize that civil penalty amounts may differ. In North Carolina, [for example](#), employers may be surprised to learn that the maximum penalties more than doubled several years ago — and these penalties also increase every January to match the maximum penalties available to Federal OSHA discussed above.

Conclusion

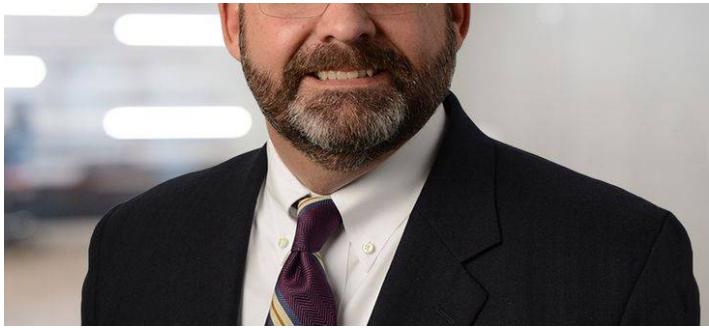
You should understand the full impact of accepting OSHA citations without contesting them. Before paying any fine assessed by OSHA or a state agency, contact the author of this Insight, any member of the [Workplace Safety Practice Group](#), or your Fisher Phillips attorney for guidance. Make sure you are subscribed to [Fisher Phillips' Insight System](#) to get the most up-to-date information on OSHA issues.

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