

Safety Note #65

TOP 10 AGRICULTURAL VIOLATIONS CITED BY CAL/OSHA



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The Farm Labor Contractor Safety and Health Guide ⁽¹⁾, by M. Alvarez and E. Manzo, indicates there were 90 California agricultural worker fatalities between 1993 and 1997. Moreover, each year more than 5,000 California agricultural workers incur disabling injuries. The California Code of Regulations (CCR) encompasses a variety of regulatory requirements designed to prevent and reduce agricultural injuries and hazards, respectively. This Safety Note presents information provided by Alvarez and Manzo for the top 10 Cal/OSHA violations cited in agricultural operations.

Top 10 Agricultural Violations Cited by Cal/OSHA

1. Driverless Self-Propelled Equipment - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3441, a tractor operator must be at the controls when the agricultural equipment (including tractors) is in motion unless a designated driverless tractor is used under special driverless tractor regulatory conditions.
2. Machine Guarding Gears, Sprockets, Chains, and PTO Shafts - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3440, all power-driven gears, belts, chains, sheaves, pulleys, sprockets, and idlers nip points require guarding. PTO shafts also require guarding.
3. Hazard Communication - Under CCR Title 8, Section 5194, employers must develop written guidelines describing protective measures from hazardous chemicals in the workplace, including labeling, training, MSDSs, and a hazardous chemical inventory.
4. Lockout/Tagout - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3314, employers shall have a program that trains employees who repair, service, clean, or adjust machinery to protect themselves from unexpected energization or start-up of machinery.
5. Guardrails on Elevated Work Areas - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3210, employers shall provide guard railing on all walkways, balconies, porches, and working levels more than 30 inches above the floor, ground, or other working level.
6. Forklifts, Industrial Tow Tractors, and Agricultural Tractors - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3664, only authorized drivers that have been trained in the safe operation of industrial trucks, including forklifts and tractors, shall be permitted to operate them.
7. Injury and Illness Protection Program (IIPP) - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3203, employers shall develop, implement, and maintain a written IIPP that meets the eight requirements for preventing injuries and illness in the workplace.
8. First Aid Training and First Aid Kits - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3439, an employer shall provide a first aid kit at every work site. In addition, one employee shall be trained in emergency first aid for every 20 employees at a "remote location" (i.e., more than a 15 minute drive to an emergency care facility).
9. Reporting Work Fatalities and Serious Accidents Within Eight Hours - Under CCR Title 8, Section 342, all serious injury, illness, or death of an employee shall be reported immediately to the nearest Cal/OSHA District Office.
10. Field Sanitation - Under CCR Title 8, Section 3457, employers shall provide potable drinking water and single-use drinking cups. Toilet and hand-washing facilities shall be within ¼ mile or a five-minute walk from the work site. Soap and single-use towels shall be provided and facilities shall be maintained in a sanitary condition.

⁽¹⁾*Farm Labor Contractor Safety and Health Guide, M. Alvarez and E. Manzo, 1998, California Department of Industrial Relations*