



Winning Moves from CHESS...

On OSHA Inspections

You may be inspected by OSHA, either because of a complaint or because you are in a high-risk industry. OSHA targets certain industries or hazards each year.

CHESS has been called in to help more than almost three dozen companies abate their citations.

In just the last ten years of providing services, twenty-eight of our clients have had OSHA inspections while we were under contract with them. (as of 8-16-10)

Average penalty: \$281 (total: \$7875)

Average citation: 1.3 (total: thirty-six)

Number of inspections with no citations: 13

Many of the employers chose not to contest any of these as the penalty amounts were so low (and many of the citations were for problems about which we had alerted the employer – but which hadn't yet been fixed). Those that were contested were done so successfully. Thirteen inspections had no citations.

Most of our clients have been able to drop their workers' compensation mod rates under 1.0 with effective safety programs.

How can we help you?

We can't guarantee that you'll never have an OSHA citation if you work with us. But our programs, training, and work have consistently passed OSHA's muster. We can:

- ▶ Do an inspection, being even more critical than OSHA would be, to alert you to the areas where you are most vulnerable to citations
- ▶ Develop the programs OSHA requires
- ▶ Advise you on the training OSHA requires
- ▶ Train your employees on the hazards and necessary precautions in their jobs
- ▶ Help you during and after an OSHA inspection, to minimize the amount you pay in penalties

*You don't have to take our word on our success.
See our success stories for proof.*

CHESS and OSHA Success Stories - Results of OSHA Inspections

No Citations

- ◆ A body shop was inspected by OSHA in 1992 and was cited for nine violations, with fines of \$527. The shop began working with us in 1995. OSHA came back in 2000. This time, there were no citations.
- ◆ Four of our clients, three collision repair facilities and a medical manufacturer, were inspected by OSHA as part of a special emphasis program. Total number of citations: ZERO.
- ◆ A small construction company hired us to assist with an OSHA inspection abatement after receiving penalties of \$4500. After working with them for two years, they received another inspection with no citations.
- ◆ A manufacturer in an industry that is often visited by OSHA received no OSHA citations from OSHA's last two inspections. The inspection prior to that, shortly before they hired us (and when they were working with a different safety consultant), resulted in five citations and penalties of \$1260.

Reduced Penalties

- ◆ One company didn't abate its citation on time. After OSHA hit them with a follow-up penalty of \$3125, the owner called us. We worked with OSHA and the company to abate the citation and to negotiate a reduction in fines to \$1125.
- ◆ Another small company had a very bad OSHA inspection – ten serious citations for more than \$5500. We began working with the company two months after their abatement date (which they hadn't met), and just before they were scheduled to meet with OSHA about the penalties. Because of our efforts, their penalties were reduced by half, and they were allowed to pay the penalty over a year's time.
- ◆ A company received several citations for unsafe practices at a construction site. We advised them on how to contest the citation, as they felt that was warranted. Within a week of their receipt of the citation, we provided the training they required to abate part of the citation. We also assisted them with a meeting with OSHA to discuss the citations and penalties. There was adequate photographic proof of the citations so OSHA would not drop those, but we were able to convince OSHA to reduce their penalties from \$2200 to \$1300.

Fewer Citations

- ◆ A body shop called us for assistance. Only a few days after we sent a proposal to them, OSHA visited (this was pure chance. We don't have *that* much pull with OSHA). They did not have a Right to Know program. They did not have a respirator program, nor the Minnesota-required AWAIR program. But we were able to show the inspector that they had begun to develop a safety and health program. Their final penalties: just three citations and \$630.
- ◆ During OSHA's focus on public works facilities, one of our clients was inspected. OSHA cited for a pinch point on the rollers for a sign making machine. The client chose not to contest that violation, the only one received, even though there was some question about whether there was a pinch point. The average public works facility had been paying over \$1400 in penalties, and had received more than three citations.