



Clark Seif Clark Environmental Newsletter

www.csceng.com 800.807.1118

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Every day, Clark Seif Clark professionals are deployed across the nation helping both large and small customers resolve health & safety, industrial hygiene, environmental and indoor air quality issues.

At a moment's notice, Clark Seif Clark can send their experts anywhere they are needed. No matter if it's in response to a hurricane, wildfire, flood, tornado or other natural disaster, Clark Seif Clark is ready to help and can respond in no time at all.

OSHA's Most Frequently Cited Violations and Preventing Injuries, Fatalities and Costly Noncompliance Penalties

Protecting the health and safety of the U.S. workforce has improved over the years, but as recently as 2015, the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) reports that over 4,800 workers were killed on the job. This is a dramatic improvement from the estimated 14,000 workers killed on the job each year before the creation of OSHA back in 1971. In addition to these fatal injuries, millions of workers are injured on the job annually.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing "safe and healthful working conditions" for their employees. To help prevent occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities, there are a number of OSHA regulations that are enforced by the agency. Companies and institutions that fail to meet OSHA health and safety regulations can be subject to costly noncompliance fines.

In an effort to help improve workplace safety, OSHA annually releases a list of the 10 most frequently cited safety and health violations for the fiscal year. The list is compiled from tens of thousands of workplace inspections conducted by their staff.

The preliminary list of OSHA's Top 10 Citations of 2017 includes:

In This Issue

[OSHA's Most Frequently Cited Violations and Preventing Injuries, Fatalities and Costly Noncompliance Penalties](#)

[Building Occupant Exposures to VOCs in New Construction or Recently Renovated Structures](#)



Clark Seif Clark
(CSC)

csc@csceng.com
800.807.1118

Office Locations

SERVICES

[Asbestos](#)

[Lead](#)

[Mold](#)

- Fall Protection - General Requirements (6,072 violations)
- Hazard Communication (4,176 violations)
- Scaffolds (3,288 violations)
- Respiratory Protection (3,097 violations)
- Lockout/Tagout (2,877 violations)
- Ladders (2,241 violations)
- Powered Industrial Trucks (2,162 violations)
- Machine Guarding (1,933 violations)
- Fall Protection - Training Requirements (1,523 violations)
- Electrical Wiring Methods (1,405 violations)

"This list changes little from year to year and represents thousands of instances where workers could be injured or killed and millions of dollars in noncompliance penalties," said Zahid Iqbal, MPH, CIH and Technical Director at Clark Seif Clark. "At CSC, our industrial hygiene professionals assist companies with developing, training, implementing, managing and assessing occupational health and safety programs. In addition to helping to avoid expensive noncompliance fines, these services are essential for creating a culture of safety at work, which has been shown to reduce costs, raise productivity and improve morale."

CSC recently sponsored an educational video discussing OSHA's Top 10 Citations of 2017 that can be seen here:



To learn more about this or other industrial hygiene, occupational, environmental, indoor air quality, health and safety services, please visit www.csceng.com , email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

Building Occupant Exposures to VOCs in New Construction or Recently Renovated Structures

[Indoor Air Quality](#)

[Workplace Health & Safety](#)

[Site Assessments](#)

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[Green Building](#)

[Litigation Support](#)

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Is It Safe?

Almost everyone has at one time or another walked into a newly constructed or recently renovated home or office and comment about the "new" smell. While the odor is pleasant to some, and may invoke feelings of a clean and fresh indoor environment, quite often it actually means the person is being exposed to elevated levels of volatile organic compounds (VOCs).

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) describes VOCs as organic chemical compounds with a composition that makes it possible for them to evaporate under normal indoor atmospheric conditions of temperature and pressure. A few examples of VOCs include formaldehyde, toluene and acetone.

Strong odors in new or recently renovated indoor environments are often due to off-gassing from new building materials, finishes and furnishings. VOCs may come from treated or engineered wood products, carpets, flooring, cabinets, paints, stains, varnishes, caulking, adhesives and many other materials. Typically, VOC levels in the indoor air will decrease over time, but just how long it will take depends on a number of factors. It's also important to know that VOCs can be reintroduced into the indoor environment from the use of some common materials, including cleaning supplies, air fresheners, pesticides and aerosol sprays.

"Exposure concerns associated with VOCs vary greatly from those that are highly toxic or known carcinogens, to those with no known health effects," said Franco Seif, President at Clark Seif Clark (CSC). "As with other pollutants, the extent and nature of any negative effects depend on many factors, including the individual, chemical compound, level of exposure and length of time exposed. Some of the more common exposure complaints include eye and respiratory tract irritation, headaches and dizziness."

Identifying VOCs and other indoor air quality (IAQ) pollutants in residential, commercial and institutional properties are the building science experts at Clark Seif Clark. CSC offers comprehensive indoor environmental quality assessments, inspections, audits, testing and monitoring services. If issues are found, their professionals can recommend ways to mitigate or eliminate the concern. They also recently sponsored a video about VOCs in new construction that can be seen below:



To learn more about this or other indoor air quality, building science, industrial hygiene, environmental, health and safety testing services, please visit www.csceng.com , email csc@csceng.com or call (800) 807-1118.

About Clark Seif Clark: CSC was established in 1989 to help clients in both the public and private sectors address environmental issues. CSC is a leading provider of these services with multiple offices along the western seaboard and southwest. The company believes in science-based protocols and has a strong background in engineering making them the preferred environmental consultants to healthcare facilities, architects, schools, builders, contractors, developers and real estate professionals.