

Mishap Prevention Brief

62d Wing Safety



Lumber Company Cited \$225,000

27 July 99, OSHA issued citations to Coastal Lumber Company, Hopwood, Pa., for alleged safety and health violations and proposed penalties totaling \$245,000. The company, headquartered in Weldon, NC, produces hardwood for wholesale trade. The Hopwood site employs 71 workers. The inspection was initiated after reports of an accident in which an employee lost both of his legs while performing routine machine maintenance.

According to Robert Szymanski, area director of the Pittsburgh OSHA office, Coastal received three willful violations, with a proposed penalty of \$210,000 and seven serious violations, with a proposed penalty of \$35,000.

The willful violations were due to the company's failure to conduct annual reviews of lockout procedures, which are necessary to prevent the inadvertent start of machinery during maintenance operations; failure to conduct retraining on employees when the employer observed deviation from lockout procedures and failure to provide a walkway or fall protection for employees required to perform machine maintenance at an elevated work location.

The serious violations resulted from deficiencies in the company's lockout program, including: the absence of program enforcement procedures; inadequate employee training in Lockout/Tagout; and employee use of improper lockout procedures.