

**Fixed Site Scheduling
Oregon OSHA Proposed Changes
DEVELOPMENT OF INDUSTRY HAZARD RANKING
July 2009**

In working with the fixed site enforcement scheduling advisory group assembled for the purpose, Oregon OSHA set out to group the various industry NAICS (North American Industry Classification System) codes by level of relative risk. While this does not suggest that all employment in a “high risk” NAICS is hazardous, or that all employment in a “low risk” NAICS is safe, it is intended to provide a meaningful distinction based on industry characteristics.

Selection of Industries for Safety Scheduling

In ranking industries for the proposed safety enforcement scheduling lists, and with the assistance of the advisory group, Oregon OSHA divided them into 10 groups based on the following seven criteria (the original draft envisioned only 4 groups):

- Total Claims Rate in Oregon (using Bureau of Labor Statistics data)
- DART (Days Away or on Restricted Duty) Claims Rate in Oregon (using Bureau of Labor Statistics data)
- Federal Total Claims Rate (using Bureau of Labor Statistics data)
- Federal DART (Days Away or on Restricted Duty) Claims Rate (using Bureau of Labor Statistics data)
- Federal Fatal Case Rate (using data from the Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries)
- Oregon Fatal Case Rate (using data from the Oregon Workers Compensation system)
- Oregon Disabling Claims Rate (using data from the Oregon Workers Compensation system).

Originally, the seven criteria each carried an equal weight in the combined ranking. However, after extensive discussion in the advisory group, the rankings were shifted to place a greater emphasis on Oregon-specific experience. To do this, the Oregon BLS data was given greater weight (1.5 times) and the federal BLS data was given reduced weight (.5 times). Also based on the discussions, the Oregon workers compensation fatality data was included only after it was possible to calculate a rate using workers, rather than locations. The Oregon workers compensation disabling claims data also was calculated using workers, rather than locations as in the earlier drafts.

Selection of Industries for Health Scheduling

Because claims and other incidence data does not readily provide a meaningful ranking (skewed as it is toward noise and skin hazards and away from cancer and other fatality risks), even at an industry-wide level, the health industries were selected using a process that began by consulting a technical advisory group made up of industrial hygienists and other occupational health professionals and asking them to identify those areas where the risks are greatest. Based on that discussion, and a further analysis of data regarding historic violation rates and other relevant factors, Oregon OSHA has identified the list of industries in the rule’s Appendix B as being those fixed site industries where the greatest likelihood of serious health hazards exists.