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Are you Compliant?

What does OSHA look for when inspecting your workplace for PPE compliance? In 2011, the most frequently cited general industry PPE standards were:

1910.132, General requirements
1,830 citations with a total of $3,217,665 in fines

1910.133, Eye and face protection
565 citations with a total of $886,023 in fines

1910.138, Hand protection
247 citations with a total of $330,840 in fines

1910.135, Head protection
79 citations with a total of $179,538 in fines

1910.136, Foot protection
55 citations with a total of $93,696 in fines

A total of 2,776 citations for these violations cost employers $4,707,752. Will you pass inspection?



Not Flowers to be Picked

Did you ever wonder what those little flag markers mean? You know…the ones you see at construction sites and other neighborhood areas. What do all those different colored flags mean?

They are temporary markings of underground utilities. The American Public Works Association uses them to mark the following:

- **Red:** Electric power lines, cables, conduit, and lighting cables.
- **Yellow:** Gas, oil, steam, petroleum, or gaseous material.
- **Orange:** Communication, alarm or signal lines, cables, or conduit.
- **Green:** Sewers and drain lines.
- **White:** Proposed excavation limits or route.
- **Pink:** Temporary survey markings, unknown/ unidentified facilities.
- **Purple:** reclaimed water, irrigation, and slurry lines.

THINKING GREEN

Green Advice

Eat Local. Food shouldn't have more frequent flier miles than you do. While it may not be possible to find locally grown oranges where you live, that doesn't mean things like milk, cheese, and eggs have to come from other states when local options exist for most of us.

Go Vegetarian. Many environmentalists believe this one switch to eliminating meat – even if you do, just a few days a week – is the single most significant thing you can do to help with water, air, and land conservation.

Don't Overbuy. We each toss about 240 pounds of food into the trash every year, which equals around $2,000 for the average American.

Update Your Fridge. A refrigerator is one of the biggest energy hogs since you really can't turn it off. If it's more than 10 years old, it's likely using 1-1/2 to 2 times the amount of energy it used the first day you plugged it in. Replace an old fridge with an Energy Star model and most stores will take away and recycle your old one for free.

Use the Dishwasher. Washing by hand wastes more water. According to the EPA, hand washing a load of dishes uses around 27 gallons of water vs. 4 gallons used by an energy-efficient dishwasher. So load up the dishwasher and use environmentally friendly detergents. And don't pre-rinse too much. Detergents today need some grime and grease to be activated, so if your dishes are too clean going in, the detergent won't work. (*Yes, really!*)

Not All GPS Systems are the Same

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration will soon incorporate Global Positioning System (GPS) device training into new entry-level certification programs for commercial motor vehicle operators. That means commercial drivers will be trained and reminded to only use GPS systems designed specifically for the industry.

Not all GPS navigation systems are the same. The devices you buy at an electronics or auto parts store may not have software programming to show low bridges, hazmat routes, and other information relevant to commercial motor vehicle operators.

A visor card on how truck and bus drivers should choose a navigation system intended for them provides tips on the correct use of the navigation systems. Download this card free-of-charge. Go to 1.usa.gov/WZNTzh.

Devices That Suck (Power)

We live for gadgets. But even the smallest ones can consume an enormous amount of power.

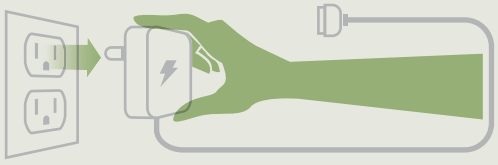
Laptops: If your laptop has a screensaver with images, it consumes more power than an idle laptop.

Battery chargers: Your mobile devices don't take up that much power on their own, but if the charger is left plugged-in to electric outlets when the device isn't connected, they continue to draw power. Add up that most households use more than one charger, and across the country, they could consume the energy of several power plants.

Power-saving solutions: Turn them all the way off. Try an energy-saving power strip. The power-savers are designed to cut power to devices that don't need it.

You can also change your new device's default settings: Manually change the brightness settings on your TVs and computer screens to suck up less energy.

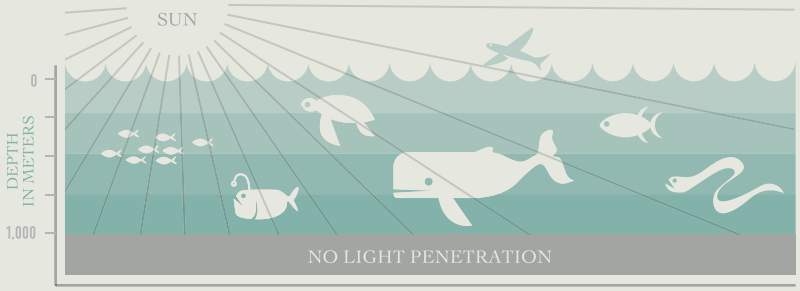
The green Web site Treehugger.com has helpful tips for getting more eco-friendly gadgets.



Facts of Light

As the fastest thing in the universe, light certainly gets around. Check out these flashes of light:

- **15,000:** Miles of neon tubing used to light the Las Vegas Strip
- **100:** Number of times brighter an average city's night sky is than a natural one due to light pollution
- **1,000:** The deepest that sunlight can penetrate the ocean, in meters
- **434:** Distance from Earth, in light-years, of the North Star
- **1579:** The year (A.D.) that the light we see in the sky today left the North Star
- **160:** Reported incidents of people aiming laser pointers at aircraft in 2012
- **10:** Number of consecutive weeks that the song, "You Light Up My Life" was the No. 1 single in America in 1977
- **175:** Average reduction in calories consumed per person when fast-food restaurants use softer, more relaxed lighting
- **0.6:** Thickness, in inches, of a steel girder sliced by a German military laser – at a distance of 3,000 feet



SOAPBOX

Cheer up. The worst is yet to come. – *Mark Twain*

Artificial intelligence is no match for natural stupidity.

When in doubt, mumble.

Politics is so strange. A politician speaks and says nothing, nobody listens, and then everybody disagrees.

Electricity is really just organized lightning. – *George Carlin*

The No. 1 sign you have nothing to do at work: The 4th Division of Paperclips has overrun the Pushpin Infantry and General White-Out has called for a new skirmish.

Youth would be an ideal state if it came a little later in life.

Wednesdays are like Mondays in the middle of the week.

Income tax returns are the most imaginative fiction being written today.

Wisdom doesn't necessarily come with age. Sometimes age just shows up all by itself. – *Tom Wilson*

No one makes all of life's journey on a green light.

The reason lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place is that the same place isn't there the second time.

You can put steak sauce on a hot dog, but it's still a weenie.

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By the Numbers



Gallons of soap delivered:
198,592,029 since 1984



Empty drums not in landfills:
3,610,764 since 1984