



# Safety Bulletin – Spring 2023

## Oregon Employers: BIG Oregon OSHA Penalty Increases Proposed Plus More Inspections

The 2023 Oregon Legislature has introduced legislation (Senate Bill (SB) 592) that would hugely increase the amounts of civil penalties for violations, and allow Oregon OSHA to conduct more “wall-to-wall” inspections under certain circumstances.

### PENALTY AMOUNTS

The proposed new schedule of penalties includes massive increases and would be inflation indexed to boot. Also, as of now the law, the new changes would provide no penalty adjustments for employer size for repeated willful violations or for serious violations resulting in death.

Proposed (SB 592) and Current Oregon OSHA Civil Penalties				
	Serious Violations (Death Involved)	Other-Than-Serious Violations (Death may be involved)	Willful or Repeat Violations (Death Involved)	Willful or Repeat Other-Than-Serious Violations (Death Not Involved)
<b>Current OR-OSHA Penalties</b>	Not less than \$50	No penalty amount specified	\$100 daily minimum	\$50 daily minimum
<b>SB 592 Penalties</b>	\$20,000 –\$50,000	Up to \$13,653	\$50,000 –\$250,000	\$9,753 –\$136,532

### Examples of violations:

**Serious violation:** hazardous chemical exposure, high noise or silica exposure, lockout violations

**Other-than-Serious violation:** minor PPE violations, record keeping failures

### INSPECTIONS

SB 592 would also *require* Oregon OSHA to conduct a comprehensive (aka “wall-to-wall”) inspection:

- Within one year after an occupational death occurs at a fixed place of employment.
- When there have been three or more willful or repeated violations occur at a fixed place of employment within a one-year period.

The goal of SB 592, which from anyone’s view the changes would achieve and then some, is to satisfy OR-OSHA’s concern that current penalties are too low and there are too few inspections of the bad players. Obviously, the new penalty amounts would hugely impact Oregon employers and could outright sink smaller and medium sized businesses. Senate Bill 592 is in committee as of Spring, 2023.

RiskPoint Insurance Advisors understands that employers are committed to keeping their businesses productive and successful. Contact us today at 971.282.4304.