



Weekly Safety Tip

OSHA General Duty Clause



OSHA General Duty Clause



OSHA General Duty Clause 5(a)(1):
(a) Each employer --
(1) shall furnish to each of his employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to his employees;

The General Duty Clause is found in Section 5(a)(1) of the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act of 1970, which established the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Meeting the requirements of OSHA's General Duty Clause involves identifying and addressing recognized hazards in the workplace to ensure the safety and health of employees.

OSHA General Duty Clause requirements

Regularly assess the workplace to identify recognized hazards that may cause serious harm or fatalities.

Evaluate the severity of each recognized hazard and the likelihood of an incident occurring.

Provide comprehensive training and education to employees regarding the recognized hazards, their associated risks, and the control measures in place.

Are there specific penalties for violating the GDC?

Yes, employers can be cited and penalized by OSHA for violating the GDC. Penalties vary depending on the severity of the violation and the potential harm to employees.

How can employers ensure compliance with the GDC?

To comply with the GDC, employers should conduct regular workplace hazard assessments, involve employees in safety discussions, follow industry best practices, and implement appropriate safety measures to address recognized hazards.

What is a "recognized hazard"?

A recognized hazard is one that is known or should be known to the employer, based on industry standards, common practices, or the specific circumstances of the workplace.

What happens if a specific OSHA standard already covers a hazard?

If a specific OSHA standard addresses a hazard, employers are expected to comply with that standard. The GDC comes into play when there is no specific standard for a recognized hazard.

Can employees report potential GDC violations?

Yes, employees have the right to report potential GDC violations to OSHA, and their complaints are confidential. Employers are prohibited from retaliating against employees who report safety concerns.

Is compliance with the GDC mandatory for all employers?

Yes, compliance with the GDC is mandatory for all employers covered by OSHA, regardless of size or industry.

Again, *meeting the requirements of OSHA's General Duty Clause (GDC) involves identifying and addressing recognized hazards in the workplace to ensure the safety and health of employees.*

The tip is that: today, there is EHS software readily available that can help you to more easily and effectively ensure that your organization satisfies the recognized (standard) safety & health practices deemed reasonably enforceable under the GDC – General Duty Clause.

Acknowledgement: The following page offers highlights of blog content from *Ideagen*



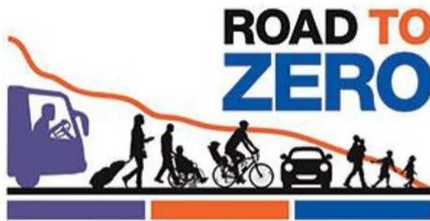
Weekly Safety Share



OSHA Joins Road to Zero



SAFETY & HEALTH SHARE



ROAD TO ZERO OSHA Joins Coalition to Eliminate Roadway Fatalities

On January 16, 2025, OSHA announced it has joined the [Road to Zero](#) Coalition, the nation's largest traffic safety alliance dedicated to eliminating roadway fatalities.

In 2023, roadway deaths accounted for 37% of all work-related fatalities, while it is estimated that more than 44,000 people died in traffic crashes.

"Unlike other workplaces, the roadway is not a closed environment," said Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Doug Parker, in a statement.

"Preventing work-related roadway incidents requires a combination of traffic safety principles and sound safety management practices. By collaborating with the **Road to Zero Coalition**, we can promote safe driving policies to prevent needless tragedies," said Parker.

"*The most dangerous thing a person can do on the job is get in a vehicle*," said Lorraine Martin, NSC president and CEO, and chair of the Road to Zero Coalition, in a statement.

"That's what makes this partnership so critical. By joining Road to Zero, OSHA strengthens our ability to protect workers both on and off the job. Together, we can create safer roads for everyone – whether they are driving for work or sharing the roads with those who do."

The **Road to Zero Coalition**, established in 2016, features a collaboration with the U.S. Department of Transportation and over 2,000 transportation safety stakeholders to combat the public health crisis of fatal and nonfatal traffic injuries on our roads. Also, it was incorporated into the current **National Roadway Safety Strategy**.

The Coalition was founded on the belief that roadway crashes are preventable, and through collective efforts, roadway fatalities can be **eliminated by 2050**.

The "zero deaths" idea was first adopted in Sweden in 1997 as "Vision Zero" and since then has evolved across the country and across the world. A growing number of state and cities have adopted "Zero" fatality visions.

Joining the Coalition allows OSHA to work collaboratively with road safety leaders to make sure road users practice safe driving behaviors and roadside workers have access to the latest technologies to keep them from harm.

A DaveV Note: Typically, we drive to work to start each workday and then drive home to end that workday. While driving a company vehicle on company business is when we most often think about driving safely. Regardless, driving is an ever-present risk exposure, even if we drive undistracted, because others are not!

David A. Varwig, CSP-retired and SCNWO Board Member *for*





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