



OSHA'S NATIONAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM ON WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION CENTER OPERATIONS: FACT SHEET

// WHAT IS THE NATIONAL EMPHASIS PROGRAM (NEP) ON WAREHOUSING?

With some sectors experiencing rates more than twice the national average, this NEP emphasizes protection for nearly two million workers in the warehousing and distribution sector.

// WHY NOW?

With employment in warehousing and distribution center operations soaring from 668,900 in January 2011 to 1,713,900 in December 2021, it is paramount to address the increasing risks and injuries in these rapidly expanding sectors.

// WHAT INDUSTRIES WILL BE AFFECTED?

Warehousing and distribution centers experience higher injury and illness rates compared to private industries overall. Other industries impacted include mail/postal processing, parcel delivery, courier services and high injury rate retail establishments.

NAICS CODES	WAREHOUSING + DISTRIBUTION CENTER ESTABLISHMENTS
491110	Postal Service (processing & distribution centers only)
492110	Couriers and express delivery services
492210	Local messengers and local delivery
493110	General warehousing and storage
493120	Refrigerated warehousing and storage
493130	Farm product warehousing and storage
493190	Other warehousing and storage

NAICS CODES	HIGH INJURY RATE RETAIL ESTABLISHMENTS
444110	Home centers
444130	Hardware stores
444190	Other building material developers
445110	Supermarkets and other grocery stores
452311	Warehouse clubs and supercenters

*NAICS: North American Industry Classification System

// HOW LONG IS THE NEP IN EFFECT?

Effective July 13, 2023, the NEP will remain valid for three years unless canceled or extended.

INSPECTIONS

// WHAT CAN I EXPECT DURING AN INSPECTION?

- Inspectors will:
 - » Review logs and incident reports for indications of industry-specific illnesses or injuries.
 - » Interview workers for symptoms of musculoskeletal disorders, struck-by incidents and other related issues.
 - » Review employer's safety measures, training records and hazard mitigation strategies.
 - » Identify all conditions and activities pertinent to warehousing hazards.



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// WILL INSPECTIONS BE PROGRAMMED?

Yes. Programmed inspections will be guided by a list of establishments falling under the relevant NAICS codes. However, unprogrammed inspections based upon fatalities/catastrophes, complaints or referrals related to establishments in the NAICS codes covered under this NEP shall be expanded to address the workplace hazards targeted by this NEP.

// WHAT WILL INSPECTIONS BE ADDRESSING?

All inspections under this NEP will focus on workplace hazards common to the above industries including, but not limited to, powered industrial vehicle operations, material handling/storage, walking-working surfaces, means of egress and fire protection. Heat and ergonomic hazards shall be considered during all inspections covered by this NEP and a health inspection shall be conducted if OSHA learns that heat and/or ergonomic hazards are present.

// SPECIFIC HAZARDS IN WAREHOUSING & DISTRIBUTION:

- **Ergonomics** - Workers in the warehousing industry face potential ergonomic risks in their workplace, which include tasks such as lifting and lowering heavy items, bending, reaching overhead, pushing and pulling heavy loads, working in awkward body postures and performing repetitive tasks.
- **Struck-by Hazards** - Along with musculoskeletal disorders, OSHA cites being struck by powered industrial trucks and other materials handling equipment (forklifts) as the number one injury concern in warehousing and distribution.
- **Heat Stress** - According to the Warehousing and Distribution Operations NEP, "when exposure to heat-related hazards is occurring, the inspection scope shall be expanded in accordance with the NEP for Outdoor and Indoor Heat-Related Hazards (Heat NEP) and a health inspection shall be opened."
- **Cold Stress/Refrigerated Warehousing** - Working safely in bitter cold conditions requires planning, regular breaks to warm up and layering up in the right PPE.
- **Slips, Trips and Falls** - There are many considerations for reducing recordables in this category—proper footwear and good housekeeping chief among them.
- **Material Handling** - OSHA recommends hand and forearm protection when manually moving loads with sharp or rough edges.

For more resources and assistance on warehousing hazards, visit [OSHA's official site](#).



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MAKE SAFETY THE STRONGEST LINK IN THE CHAIN

// HEAT STRESS



6260
PHASE CHANGE
VEST

// SPRAINS + STRAINS



1650
ECONOMY ELASTIC
BACK SUPPORT BRACE

// DEVICE MANAGEMENT



5540
SCANNER HOLSTER
- LOOP

// SLIPS, TRIPS + FALLS



6326
SPIKELESS TRACTION DEVICE -
SLIP-RESISTANT + OIL RESISTANT

// COLD STRESS



6476
INSULATED
FREEZER JACKET

850
INSULATED FREEZER
GLOVE

// STRUCK BY



8205HL
MESH HI-VIS SAFETY
VEST - TYPE R, CLASS 2

AGEIR - AFAS
AFAS SAFETY GLASSES

// MATERIAL HANDLING



7025
PU COATED
CUT-RESISTANT GLOVES

// STORAGE + ORGANIZATION



5568 // 5569
TOOL POUCH WITH
DEVICE HOLSTER

// WORKER GENERATED IMPACTS



8943F(X)
HINGED BUMP
CAP INSERT

