OSHA's Most-Cited Standards: Quick Reference

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A quick self-audit reference covering OSHA's Top 10 most-cited standards for FY2025 (Oct. 2024–Sept. 2025) that overlap with common certification categories. Not a substitute for formal training or a full compliance audit — use this to spot obvious gaps before an inspector does.

#1 Most Cited — Fall Protection, 29 CFR 1926.501 (5,914 citations, 15th consecutive year at #1)

- ☐ Confirm fall protection is required at the correct trigger height for the work being done (4 ft general industry / 6 ft construction)
- ☐ Confirm fall arrest systems, anchor points, and harnesses are inspected and properly rigged
- ☐ Confirm workers are trained under 1926.503 (Fall Protection Training — also in OSHA's Top 10)

#2 Most Cited — Hazard Communication, 29 CFR 1910.1200

- ☐ Confirm every chemical container has a complete GHS label (all 6 required elements)
- ☐ Confirm Safety Data Sheets are actually accessible to workers on every shift, not just filed in an office
- ☐ Confirm your written hazard communication program is current and reflects what's actually in use on site

#4 Most Cited — Lockout/Tagout, 29 CFR 1910.147 (2,177 citations)

- ☐ Confirm the annual periodic inspection has been completed and documented for every energy control procedure
- ☐ Confirm authorized, affected, and other-employee training is current for everyone who needs it
- ☐ Confirm procedures are specific to each machine, not a generic one-size-fits-all document

#8 Most Cited — Powered Industrial Trucks (Forklift), 29 CFR 1910.178 (1,826 citations)

- ☐ Confirm every operator has both formal instruction and a documented practical evaluation on file
- ☐ Confirm pre-shift inspections are actually being performed and logged, not just assumed
- ☐ Confirm operators are only assigned to truck types they're specifically certified on

Also in OSHA's Top 10 (not covered by the courses above)

- ☐ Scaffolding (1926.451), Respiratory Protection (1910.134), Eye/Face Protection (1926.102), and Machine Guarding (1910.212) round out the FY2025 Top 10 — worth a look if any apply to your operations

Data: OSHA Top 10 Most Frequently Cited Standards, FY2025 (final data, released 2026). This checklist is a quick reference and does not replace formal OSHA training or a professional compliance audit. © Shield Certificates — shieldcerts.com