**OSHA’s New Weighted System for Inspection Priorities**

OSHA’s fiscal year has started and with the new year comes a new system for weighting their priorities for inspections. This system is aimed to help them track inspection activity and give regional administrators a guide for prioritizing resources. Inspection weighting has been around since 2015, and prior to that, OSHA would use numbers of inspections to count activity. This led to some inspectors loading up on shorter inspections in order to gain quantity while not giving as much credit to those who were doing the long, complex inspections. So, in 2015, a weighting system based on time of completion was developed. However, OSHA found that this was not as ideal as needed.

The new system factors in agency priorities, inspection impact, and the most hazardous workplaces and operations. Each category of inspection is assigned a numerical value. The most time intensive, complex and high priority inspections gain the most points.

The following is the new points system, from highest value to least value. The points are listed in terms of Enforcement Units, or EUs.

1. **Group A: High-Priority, Time-Intense, Complex Cases [7 EUs]**
   * Criminal Cases
   * Significant Cases
2. **Group B: High-Priority Hazards, More Complex Than Average [5 EUs]**
   * Fatalities and Catastrophes
   * Chemical Plant National Emphasis Program Inspections
   * Process Safety Management Inspections
3. **Group C: Focus Four Emphasis Program**
   * Caught-In Hazards (trenching, equipment operations, oil & gas)
   * Electrical Hazards (overhead power lines, electrical wriring methods)
   * Fall Hazards (scaffolds, elevated walking and working surfaces)
   * Struck-By Hazards (highway work zones, material handling, landscaping)
4. **Group D: Programmed and National Emphasis Program Inspections [3 EUs]**
   * Amputation Hazards
   * Combustible Dust
   * Ergonomics
   * Federal Agency Inspections
   * Heat Hazards
   * Non-PEL Overexposures
   * Workplace Violence
   * Permit Required Confined Space Hazards
   * Personal Occupational Exposure Sampling
   * Site-Specific Targeting
5. **Other Regional/Local Emphasis Programs Not Already Covered (2-3 EUs)**
6. **Group E: All Other Inspections Not Listed (1 EU)**

**Please note, that OSHA can and will still add on any program area to an inspection if they are already at your facility for another issue.**

**Phone/fax/email investigations (e.g., complaints) and rapid response investigations** now earn “activity points.” Once listed as a number 3 priority on the list, now each one of these will **earn 1 activity unit for every 9 completed**.Additional enforcement support activities such as responses to Freedom of Information Act requests, electronic correspondence responses, state plan monitoring and interventions have not gotten units assigned yet.

OSHA has weighted their compliance assistance activities as well, with the following hierarchy from most important to least: 1. Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) evaluations, 2. OSHA Strategic Partnerships activities, 3. OSHA Alliances activities, and 4. Compliance Assistance activities such as making presentations and staffing informational booths.

How would your facility do if it was inspected by OSHA tomorrow? Let iSi help you find out! We can conduct safety audits and mock/test run inspections and then help you prioritize the list starting with your most critical. Contact us for a price quote!