

# OSHA Cites Georgia Company for Repeat Workplace Safety Violations

On behalf of Johnston, Moore & Thompson

- January 25, 2011

Today, OSHA cited a car parts manufacturer in southwest Atlanta for repeat worker safety and health violations and proposed \$79,350 in penalties. Although the company that was cited was in Georgia, we thought it could serve to remind us all that workplace accidents can happen in all types of workplaces. Whether we are employers or employees, we should all look around our workplaces and see what we can do to prevent job-related injuries and [workers' compensation](#) claims.

The citations were against Newnan, Georgia-based Drive Power Inc. According to its website, Drive Power is a wholesale remanufacturer of aftermarket automatic transmissions for late-model foreign and domestic vehicles.

According to OSHA, the agency performed safety and health inspections in February 2010. At that time, the inspectors cited the company for safety hazards associated with compressed air, which the company uses to clean parts. The company was also cited for a health hazard because employees were not being required to use protective gloves when handling certain chemicals.

Follow-up inspections were conducted in July and September 2010, and OSHA determined that the company had failed to correct those hazards. As a result, OSHA issued two failure-to-abate notices. The penalty for the unabated compressed air safety hazard is \$36,000, and the penalty for the continued failure to require workers to wear gloves when handling chemicals is \$20,250.

"Although OSHA staff pointed out deficiencies during previous inspections and management agreed to correct them, the company failed to follow through on its responsibilities," said the director of OSHA's Atlanta-West area office.

OSHA also issued the company one repeat citation with a \$15,000 penalty and two "serious" citations with \$6,000 penalties for inadequate lockout/tagout procedures, electrical deficiencies, and failure to certify the operators of powered industrial trucks.

Finally, OSHA cited the company for two repeat and one "other-than-serious" health violations with a total penalty of \$2,100. The three citations referred to the company's failure to implement a written respirator protection program, failure to conduct appropriate hazardous substances training and communications, and failure to ensure that an assessment of personnel protective equipment hazards was conducted.

- A "serious" citation indicates that the employer knew or should have known about a safety violation that exposed workers to a substantial probability of serious injury or death.
- An "other-than-serious" citation indicates that a violation was found that has a direct relationship to workplace safety and health but does not expose workers to a substantial probability of serious injury or death.
- A repeat citation means that an employer has been cited for the same or a similar violation within the last five years.

No [workplace injuries](#) or workers' compensation claims were reported in connection to the citations. The company now has 15 business days to comply or contest the citations, which it can do working directly with OSHA's area office or before the independent Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.

**Source:** OSHA Region 4 News Release, "[US Labor Department's OSHA proposes more than \\$79,000 in penalties against Newnan, Ga., transmission repair shop for safety and health violations](#)," January 25, 2011