

A Warning to Us All

(Excerpted from a recent OSHA News Release)

OSHA has cited Bacardi Bottling Corp. with 12 alleged safety violations following the death of a 21-year-old temporary worker his first day on the job. The worker was crushed to death by a palletizer machine.

"A worker's first day at work shouldn't be his last day on earth," said OSHA's Dr. David Michaels. "Employers are responsible for ensuring the safe conditions of ALL their employees, including those who are temporary."

OSHA requires that employers protect the health and safety of ALL workers under their supervision and control. The worker was cleaning glass from under the hoist of a palletizing machine when an employee restarted the palletizer. Bacardi Bottling had FAILED TO TRAIN temporary employees on lockout procedures to prevent the accidental start-up of machines and to ensure its own employees utilized lockout procedures on machines.

Two willful citations have been issued for failing to develop, document and utilize lockout/tagout procedures for the control of potentially hazardous energy and train temporary workers on lockout/tagout procedures. A willful violation is one committed with intentional knowing or voluntary disregard for the law's requirements or with plain indifference to worker safety and health.

"We are seeing untrained workers – many of them temporary workers – killed very soon after starting a new job. This must stop," said Michaels. "Employers must train ALL employees, including temporary workers, on the hazards specific to that workplace – BEFORE they start working. Had Bacardi done so, this tragic loss of life could have been prevented."

Also cited are nine serious violations for exposing workers to trips, struck-by and fire hazards; obstructing exit routes; exposing workers to falling debris from overhead conveyors and electrical shock hazards. The employer also failed to provide an adequate number of lockout/tagout devices to perform lockout/tagout procedures of energy sources on various equipment, conduct an adequate periodic review of the energy control procedures, perform servicing and maintenance on machines and equipment without training in the methods and means for energy isolation, and require workers to wear safety goggles and long sleeves when using air guns at 90 pounds per square inch.

Proposed penalties for the willful and serious violations total \$192,000.

**Are you training your employees AND your temporary workers?
Are you sure?**