



How to Make Comparisons of Your Company's Occupational Injury and Illness Experience

Question: How can I compare my company's occupational injury and illness experience to other companies or to some national average?

Answer: The easiest way to compare your company's occupational injury and illness experience to others would be simply to compare the number of cases recorded on your OSHA form 200 (log) to the other company's log. However, the results of this simple comparison may be misleading due to various sizes of companies.

A way to compensate for the various sizes of organizations is to calculate the incidence rate for each company and then compare the two rates. The formula for this comparison is as follows:

Number of Cases
Or Days x 200,000 = Incidence Rate
Employee Hours
Worked

The number 200,000 used in the above formula represents the number of hours worked by 100 employees who work 40 hours per week for 50 weeks per year. The resulting answer to this formula is usually rounded to one decimal place.

Using this formula, you can compare companies, departments, etc., for the same period of time. You can also compare one year to another to show trends (good or bad). Finally, the source of "national" rates is the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), which conducts an annual survey of occupational injury and illness experience. Access them at the BLS web site at <http://www.bls.gov/iif>.

The National Safety Council also publishes them in Injury Facts, which is updated yearly. For a copy, order online from NSC products at <http://secure.nsc.org/onlinecart/product.cfm?id=791> or contact Customer Relations at 1-800-621-7619.

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