# One of the Most Frequently Penalized OSHA Standards

According to OSHA, compliance with the lockout/tagout standard prevents an estimated 120 fatalities and 50,000 injuries each year. Still, OSHA's preliminary list of the Top 10 Safety Violations for 2022 included lockout/tagout, with 1,977 violations cited related to the control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout). That's 279 more citations than issued in 2021. Noncompliance with the lockout/tagout standard came in sixth place on the list of most frequently penalized OSHA standards. In 2021, OSHA issued \$12.3 million in penalties for failure to Lockout/Tagout for Hazardous Energy.

It doesn't have to be this way. Shifting from extensive lists of complicated and ineffective products to simple solutions and proper training can have profound effects on reducing the number of incidents involving hazardous energy. A simple and effective device that prevents access to every breaker handle in an electrical panel ensures that an innocent mistake of inadvertently closing the wrong breaker does not cause injury or death to another worker who is working downstream. When affected circuit parts are truly placed under the control of a LOTO process that is easy to follow, negative consequences are avoided.

Lockout devices are not required to be manufactured to any OSHA standard and do not require minimum testing standards through a certified testing facility. The OSHA standard requires implementation and does not stipulate design or materials used. The standard simply requires the lockout device to be effective.

OSHA Standard 1910.147 requires the following minimum standards for controlling hazardous energy sources with respect to the physical requirements of Lockout devices. Tagout only device requirements are excluded from the reference standard below, since Pinnacle Safety Products, LLC devices require the use of a padlock(s). The joint use of a device manufactured by Pinnacle Safety Products, LLC, and a padlock accommodates the required minimum standards for controlling hazardous energy sources.

#### 1910.147(c)(5)(i)

Locks, tags, chains, wedges, key blocks, adapter pins, self-locking fasteners, or other hardware shall be provided by the employer for isolating, securing or blocking of machines or equipment from energy sources.

#### 1910.147(c)(5)(ii)

#### **Identification**

**Lockout devices** shall be identified; shall be the only devices(s) used for controlling energy; shall not be used for other purposes; and shall meet the following requirements:

#### <u>Durable</u>

# 1910.147(c)(5)(ii)(A)(1)

Lockout devices shall be capable of withstanding the environment to which they are exposed for the maximum period that exposure is expected.

# <u>Standardized</u>

# 1910.147(c)(5)(ii)(B)

Lockout devices shall be standardized within the facility in at least one of the following criteria: Color; shape; or size.

#### <u>Substantial</u>

# 1910.147(c)(5)(ii)(C)(1)

Lockout devices shall be substantial enough to prevent removal without the use of excessive force or unusual techniques, such as with the use of bolt cutters or other metal cutting tools.

# <u>Identifiable</u>

# 1910.147(c)(5)(ii)(D)

Lockout devices shall indicate the identity of the employee applying the device(s).