

INTRODUCTION

OSHA COMPLIANCE

To meet the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards requires a knowledge of compliance rules and regulations. You will need to assign personnel to manage and carry out this program. You, as an employer, must insure that the best efforts are being made by your safety personnel to keep your company in compliance at all times. The safety of your employees while in the workplace is your responsibility.

This OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH section of the National Welding Supply Association (NWSA) Compliance Manual has been prepared to:

1. Aid the distributor, who does not have an active safety program, to come into compliance with the OSHA regulations; and
2. Provide a check list for those distributors who wish to measure their existing safety program.

There is more emphasis on safety and health issues today than ever before. There have been a number of major incidents in the past few years triggering heightened public pressure, regulatory activity, employee pressure, and liability problems. These incidents include Bhopal, Chernobyl, Institute, West Virginia and numerous others. For the welding supply distributor, even a "small" disaster can be a "major one," if you are involved in it.

Welding supply distributors must manage their safety and health programs just as they manage sales, production, and distribution. To consider safety of lesser importance than production clearly shows management's lack of commitment to employee safety and health.

Just as a distributor adds value to a manufacturer's product, he must add value to protect the distributors most valuable resource, it's employees.

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To effectively operate in today's environment, the distributor, regardless of size, must:

1. Prepare a written Safety and Health Program
2. Implement a program which will include:
 - Safety Activities
 - Rules & Procedures
 - Education and Training
 - Inspections and Audits
 - Health and Environment
 - Fire and Emergency
 - Housekeeping
 - Recordkeeping
3. Establish a safety committee chaired by the CEO.