



SAFETY SHARE OF THE MONTH

IMPORTANCE OF WORKPLACE EXAMS & AUDITS

Safety Workplace Exams & Audits help employers keep their workers out of danger, avoid legal risks, increase efficiency, and determine whether they comply with federal and State regulations and standards. Safety Workplace Exams are an essential component of any safety program and should be performed by a competent person before work starts or as work begins. In some industries like mining law requires them.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SAFETY AUDITS AND INSPECTIONS

It is easy to get confused between a safety audit, and a safety inspection. While they both make sure that operations are carried out as safely as possible, they are not the same thing. Understanding the difference can help provide your business with the type of safety management, it needs.

Safety Inspections:

- Observe workplace practices and determine whether there is any aspect to operations that is unsafe. Make sure employees are following procedures and policies.
- Identify existing potential hazards
- Establish the procedures to eliminate these hazards, or otherwise guard/protect against them.
- Examine equipment and determine whether safeguards are sufficient
- Internal personnel or someone who otherwise is familiar with that particular area should conduct the safety exams. Care should be taken to ensure competent employees performing the safety exams understand the dangers of particular jobs or tasks.

Safety Audits:

- Audits evaluate how effective the inspection process is
- Analyze current safety systems, including the employee training program, that detect hazards and eliminate or control these hazards
- Determine if the safety program meets your company's goals
- Are conducted by external personnel; an outsider's perspective provides a more objective assessment of an established safety program

Listening to workers and supervisors should be emphasized, since they know the area better than anyone else. Safety checks should be conducted more frequently if there are high-risk areas onsite, new machinery is introduced, or there have been incidents in the past. Legislation may require a certain number of planned and formal inspections, depending on the nature of equipment and work processes.

