

## What must my employer do about Lockout/Tagout?

Employers must comply with any pertinent OSHA standards by:

- Following one of the 19 specific OSHA standards listed in the next Factsheet. If there is a specific standard that applies to your work, that's the one your employer must follow.  
– OR –
- By following the general standard, Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout) – 1910.147:
  - Employers must establish a program consisting of:
    - Energy control procedures,
    - Employee training and
    - Periodic inspections.
  - This is to ensure that before any employee performs any servicing or maintenance on a machine or equipment where the unexpected energizing, start up or release of stored energy could occur and cause injury:

- The machine or equipment shall be isolated from the energy source, and,
- Be rendered inoperative.

Three of the major things employers should do to protect employees, even if they are not required by OSHA, are:

- Train workers in the basic concepts of hazardous energy control.
- Include a hazardous energy control program with any Confined Space Entry program.
- Design machines and systems that make it easy to control hazardous energy.

Employers should start by identifying and labeling all sources of hazardous energy in the workplace.

SOURCES: Control of hazardous energy (lockout/tagout) – 1910.147 and other applicable OSHA standards.