



Employer
Solutions Law

JUNE NEWSLETTER

CRANE RULES UPDATE: Forklift Petition Moves Forward

Industry Participation Needed in Upcoming Crane Rule Review: The Washington construction industry may see changes to recently adopted crane regulations affecting forklifts used to lift suspended loads.

Last year, the Associated General Contractors of Washington, together with numerous industry groups, **successfully petitioned the State Department of Labor & Industries (L&I) to reconsider a portion of the new crane rules.** Under the current rule, forklifts used with a hook or shackle to lift a suspended load are treated as cranes, triggering the full requirements of Part L, including operator certification requirements.

Industry groups argued that the rule is more restrictive than current federal OSHA guidance, which focuses on forklifts equipped with a boom or hoist. In response, **L&I granted the petition and has agreed to begin a stakeholder process to review the issue.**

While this does not guarantee a rule change, it does open the door for discussions between L&I and industry representatives. Initial stakeholder meetings are expected this summer, and **L&I has indicated it may also address other concerns** and technical corrections within Part L during the rulemaking process.

For now, employers should remember that the **current rule remains in effect.** Forklifts using a hook or shackle to lift suspended loads remain subject to Part L requirements unless and until the rule is changed.

So, as of today:

No formal stakeholder meeting date has been set

L&I was expecting to begin stakeholder discussions **in June/July.**

We will **email you an alert** as soon as the date, time, and location are announced.

Free Webinar

WISHA CITATIONS AND APPEALS: What Every Washington Employer Should Know:

A practical guide to reassumption hearings, Board appeals, and protecting your company from repeat violations and increased penalties.

WISHA citations can have **consequences beyond the initial penalty**. Once a citation becomes final, it remains on an **employer's record for years**, can increase exposure to repeat violations, and may affect eligibility for **future contracting opportunities**.

This webinar explains the options available when a citation is issued, including reassumption hearings, settlement opportunities, and appeals to the Board of Industrial Insurance Appeals.

You'll leave with a **practical understanding** of the WISHA appeal process and **strategies to protect your safety record**, reduce penalties, and manage long-term risk. Presented by Brian Padgett, Managing Attorney, Employer Solutions Law.



Date: Thursday, June 11



Time: 11:00 AM (Pacific Time)



Where: Online – Free to attend

Sign Up

Workers' Comp Penalties Increase

Employers Face 12.11% Increase: Beginning July 1, 2026, Washington employers will face higher penalties for certain violations of the state's workers' compensation laws.

The increase is the result of a 2020 law requiring inflation-based **adjustments every three years**. The upcoming adjustment is 12.11%, based on changes in the Seattle-area Consumer Price Index. Many of these penalties had remained unchanged since the 1980s before the law was enacted.

As penalties increase, so does the **cost of compliance mistakes**. Employers that **fail to properly report injuries**, maintain coverage, or comply with workers' compensation requirements may face **higher penalties**, increased claim costs, and greater scrutiny from L&I.

We can help you identify and address compliance issues through guidance on claims management, reporting requirements, return-to-work programs, L&I interactions, and supervisor training.

L&I has provided a list of all the penalties that have an adjustment. [Click here to view the list.](#)

WISHA/DOSH

L&I Matters

Employment Law

If you would like receive our Newsletters,
email Anne@EmployerSolutionsLaw.com



The purpose of this newsletter is to provide general information and should not be construed as legal advice. Each situation is unique and legal advice must be tailored to the facts of the specific case or incident. This newsletter is for informational purposes only and is not a solicitation. Privacy is important to us. We will not sell, rent, or give your name or address to anyone. At any point you can select the link at the bottom of this newsletter to unsubscribe, or to receive less or more information.

[Brian Padgett](#) | Brian@EmployerSolutionsLaw.com
www.EmployerSolutionsLaw.com | [425-644-6142](tel:425-644-6142)

Sent to: anne@employersolutionslaw.com

[Unsubscribe](#)

Employer Solutions Law, 2700 Richards Road Suite 201, Bellevue, WA 98005, United States