

875—3.19(88) Abatement verification.

3.19(1) Scope and application. This rule applies to employers who receive a citation for a violation of the Iowa Occupational Safety and Health Act.

3.19(2) Definitions.

“Abatement” means action by an employer to comply with a cited standard or regulation or to eliminate a recognized hazard identified by OSHA during an inspection.

“Abatement date” means:

1. For an uncontested citation item, the later of:
 - The date in the citation for abatement of the violation;
 - The date approved by OSHA or established in litigation as a result of a petition for modification of the abatement date (PMA); or
 - The date established in a citation by an informal settlement agreement.
2. For a contested citation item for which the employment appeal board has issued a final order affirming the violation, the later of:
 - The date identified in the final order for abatement; or
 - The date computed by adding the period allowed in the citation for abatement to the final order date;
 - The date established by a formal settlement agreement.

“Affected employees” means those employees who are exposed to the hazard(s) identified as a violation(s) in a citation.

“Final order date” means:

1. For an uncontested citation item, the fifteenth working day after the employer’s receipt of the citation;
2. For a contested citation item:
 - The thirtieth day after the date on which a final order was entered by the employment appeal board or
 - The date on which a court issues a decision affirming the violation in a case in which a final order of employment appeal board has been stayed.

“Movable equipment” means a hand-held or non-hand-held machine or device, powered or unpowered, that is used to do work and is moved within or between work sites.

3.19(3) Abatement certification.

a. Within ten calendar days after the abatement date, the employer must certify to the division that each cited violation has been abated, except as provided in paragraph *“b”* of this subrule.

b. The employer is not required to certify abatement if the compliance safety and health officer during the on-site portion of the inspection:

- (1) Observes, within 24 hours after a violation is identified, that abatement has occurred; and
- (2) Notes in the citation that abatement has occurred.

c. The employer’s certification that abatement is complete must include, for each cited violation, in addition to the information required in 3.19(8), the date and method of abatement and a statement that affected employees and their representatives have been informed of the abatement.

NOTE: Appendix A contains a sample abatement certification letter.

3.19(4) Abatement documentation.

a. The employer must submit to the division, along with the information on abatement certification required by subrule 3.19(3), paragraph *“c,”* documents demonstrating that abatement is complete for each willful or repeat violation and for any serious violation for which the division indicates in the citation that the abatement documentation is required.

b. Documents demonstrating that abatement is complete may include, but are not limited to, evidence of the purchase or repair of equipment, photographic or video evidence of abatement, or other written records.

3.19(5) Abatement plans.

a. The division may require an employer to submit an abatement plan for each cited violation (except an other-than-serious violation) when the time permitted for abatement is more than 90 calendar days. If an abatement plan is required, the citation must so indicate.

b. The employer must submit an abatement plan for each cited violation within 25 calendar days from the final order date when the citation indicates that such a plan is required. The abatement plan must identify the violation and the steps to be taken to achieve abatement, including a schedule for completing abatement and, where necessary, how employees will be protected from exposure to the violative condition in the interim until abatement is complete.

NOTE: Appendix B contains a sample abatement plan form.

3.19(6) Progress reports.

a. An employer who is required to submit an abatement plan may also be required to submit periodic progress reports for each cited violation. The citation must indicate:

- (1) That periodic progress reports are required and the citation items for which they are required;
- (2) The date on which an initial progress report must be submitted, which may be no sooner than 30 calendar days after submission of an abatement plan;
- (3) Whether additional progress reports are required; and
- (4) The date(s) on which additional progress reports must be submitted.

b. For each violation, the progress report must identify, in a single sentence if possible, the action taken to achieve abatement and the date the action was taken.

NOTE: Appendix B contains a sample progress report form.

3.19(7) Employee notification.

a. The employer must inform affected employees and their representative(s) about abatement activities covered by this rule by posting a copy of each document submitted to the division or a summary of the document near the place where the violation occurred.

b. Where posting does not effectively inform employees and their representatives about abatement activities (for example, for employers who have mobile work operations), the employer shall:

- (1) Post each document or a summary of the document in a location where it will be readily observable by affected employees and their representatives; or
- (2) Take other steps to communicate fully to affected employees and their representatives about abatement activities.
- (3) The employer must inform employees and their representatives of their right to examine and copy all abatement documents submitted to the division.

c. An employee or an employee representative shall submit a request to examine and copy abatement documents within three working days of receiving notice that the documents have been submitted. The employer shall comply with an employee's or employee representative's request to examine and copy abatement documents within five working days of receiving the request.

d. The employer must ensure that notice to employees and employee representatives is provided at the same time or before the information is provided to the division and that abatement documents are:

- (1) Not altered, defaced, or covered by other material; and
- (2) Remain posted for three working days after submission to the division.

3.19(8) Transmitting abatement documents.

a. The employer must include, in each submission required by this rule, the following information:

1. The employer's name and address;
2. The inspection number to which the submission relates;
3. The citation and item numbers to which the submission relates;
4. A statement that the information submitted is accurate; and
5. The signature of the employer or the employer's authorized representative.

b. The date of postmark is the date of submission for mailed documents. For documents transmitted by other means, the date the division receives the document is the date of submission.

3.19(9) Movable equipment.

a. For serious, repeat, and willful violations involving movable equipment, the employer must attach a warning tag or a copy of the citation to the operating controls or to the cited component of equipment that is moved within the work site or between work sites. Attaching a copy of the citation to the equipment is deemed to meet the tagging requirement of this paragraph as well as the posting requirement of rule 875—3.11(88).

b. The employer must use a warning tag that properly warns employees about the nature of the violation involving the equipment and identifies the location of the citation issued.

NOTE: Appendix C (nonmandatory) contains a sample tag that employers may use to meet this requirement.

c. If the violation has not already been abated, a warning tag or copy of the citation must be attached to the equipment:

- (1) For hand-held equipment, immediately after the employer receives the citation; or
- (2) For non-hand-held equipment, prior to moving the equipment within or between work sites.

d. For the construction industry, a tag that is designed and used in accordance with 29 CFR 1926.20(b)(3) and 29 CFR 1926.200(h) is deemed by OSHA to meet the requirements of this rule when the information required by subrule 3.19(9), paragraph “*b*,” is included on the tag.

e. The employer must ensure that the tag or copy of the citation attached to movable equipment is not altered, defaced, or covered by other material.

f. The employer must ensure that the tag or copy of the citation attached to movable equipment remains attached until:

- (1) The violation has been abated and all abatement verification documents required by this regulation have been submitted to the division;
- (2) The cited equipment has been permanently removed from service or is no longer within the employer’s control; or
- (3) The appeal board issues a final order vacating the citation.