

NEWS BRIEF

Provided by: Wheeler & Taylor Inc.

OSHA Requests Information for Possible Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) Standard Update

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is requesting information that could lead to possible updates for the Control of Hazardous Energy standard, also known as the Lockout/Tagout (LOTO) standard.

Published in 1989, the current LOTO standard covers the servicing and maintenance of machines and equipment. Specifically, the standard is in place for the safety of employees in order to make sure that an unexpected start-up and release of energy does not result in harm or injury. LOTO establishes minimum performance requirements of such hazardous energy and currently specifies that control circuit-type devices cannot be used as energy-isolating devices.

Allowing Control Circuit Devices

OSHA posted a Request for Information (RFI) in the Federal Register May 20, with an interest in comments regarding the use of control circuit-type devices to isolate energy.

OSHA is specifically requesting information on types of circuitry and safety procedures being used and the limitations of those uses in order to determine other conditions in which control circuit-type devices could be used safely.

While the current LOTO standard specifically states that control circuit devices cannot be used as energy-isolating devices, OSHA is acknowledging that recent technological advancements may have improved the safety of those types of devices.

In addition to information about control circuit devices, OSHA is also looking for more information about evolving technology for robotics including:

- Hazards and benefits with respect to the control of hazardous energy
- Safeguards that can be used
- Increased efficiencies
- Any other information related to ensuring employee safety while working with robots

Comments are due Aug. 18 and can be submitted electronically at www.regulations.gov, the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal, or by facsimile or mail. Check the [Federal Register posting](#) for more details.

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For More Information

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