



# INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

ERIC J. HOLCOMB, GOVERNOR

David Redden, Commissioner

402 West Washington Street, Room W195

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2751

Phone: (317) 232-2655

Fax: (317) 233-3790

## Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

**To:**  
American Fibertech Corporation  
and its successors  
3159 Fleenor Road  
Mitchell, IN 47446

**Inspection Number:** 1596722  
**CSHO ID:** Q9916  
**Optional Report No.:** UNKNOWN  
**Inspection Date(s):** 05/17/2022 - 10/18/2022  
**Issuance Date:** 11/23/2022

**Inspection Site:**  
3159 Fleenor Road  
Mitchell, IN 47446

*The violation(s) described in this Safety Order and Notification of Penalty is (are) alleged to have occurred on or about the day(s) the inspection was made unless otherwise indicated within the description given below.*

An inspection of your workplace of employment has revealed conditions which we believe do not comply with the provisions of the Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Act (Indiana Code Chapter 22-8-1.1) or the standards or rules adopted thereunder. Accordingly, enclosed please find safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty describing such violation(s) with references to applicable standards, rules or provisions of the statute and stating the amount of any penalty(ies).

**Informal Conference – Please be advised that it may be possible to informally settle any potential dispute without initiating the more elaborate proceedings brought on by a petition for review. Prior to filing a petition for review, you may request an informal conference concerning any results of the inspection (safety orders, penalties, abatement dates, etc.) by contacting the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA, preferably by telephone, in a prompt manner. Please be advised that a request for an informal conference cannot extend the fifteen working day period for filing a petition for review. Informal conferences frequently resolve any possible disputes, and therefore you are urged to take advantage of this opportunity. Because of the limited time period and in order to facilitate scheduling, any requests for an informal conference should be made promptly upon your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.**

**Right to Contest –** You are hereby also notified that you are entitled to seek administrative review of the safety order(s), penalty(ies), or both by filing a written petition for review at the above address postmarked within fifteen working days of your receipt of the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. (“Working days” means Mondays through Fridays, but does not include Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays under a state statute or days on which the Indiana Department of Labor’s offices are closed during regular business hours). If you do not file such a petition for review (contest), the safety

order(s) and penalty(ies) shall be deemed final orders of the Board of Safety Review and not subject to review by any court or agency. The issuance of a safety order does not constitute a finding that a violation has occurred unless no petition for review is filed, or if a petition for review (contest) is filed, it must contain a statement of its basis and should reference the above inspection number. Upon receipt of your petition for review, we will affirm, amend, or dismiss the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. If we affirm, your petition for review will be granted (unless it was not timely) and the dispute will be certified by the Board of Safety Review for further proceedings. The Board of Safety Review is an independent board appointed by the governor with authority to conduct legal proceedings leading up to and including administrative hearings or assign an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to conduct the same, and to issue decisions concerning disputed safety orders and notifications of penalties. If we amend the safety order(s) or notification(s) of penalty, your petition for review shall be deemed moot. However, you will then be given an opportunity to file a petition for review concerning the amended safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty.

Please be advised that an employee or representative of employees may file a petition for review to contest the reasonableness of the time stated in the safety order(s) for the abatement of any violation.

**Posting** - Upon receipt of any safety order(s) you are required to post such safety order(s), or a copy thereof, unedited, at or near each place an alleged violation referred to in the safety order(s) occurred. However, if your operations are such that it is not practicable to post the safety order(s) at or near each place of alleged violation, such safety order(s) shall be posted, unedited, in a prominent place where it will be readily observable by all affected employees. For example, if you are engaged in activities which are physically dispersed, the safety order(s) may be posted at the location from which the employees operate to carry out their activities. You must take steps to ensure that the safety order is not altered, defaced, or covered by other material. Posting shall be until the violation is abated, or for three working days, whichever is longer.

**Penalties** - Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. Abatement does not constitute payment of penalties.

**Abatement** - The conditions cited in the safety order(s) must be corrected (abated) on or before the date shown for each item on the safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty unless:

(1) You file a petition for review concerning the violation, in which case the full abatement period shall commence from the issuance of a final decision by the Board of Safety Review or the courts which requires compliance with the safety order; or

(2) The abatement period is extended by the granting of a petition for modification of abatement date.

**PMA's** - The petition for modification of abatement date is a manner in which you may seek additional time to correct (abate) a violation without having to file a petition for review concerning the safety order, or after the expiration of the time period to file such a petition for review when it becomes apparent that you need extra time to abate the violation. A petition for modification of abatement date shall be in writing and shall include the following information:

(1) All steps you have taken, and the dates of such actions, in an effort to achieve compliance during the prescribed abatement period.

(2) The specific additional abatement time necessary in order to achieve compliance.

(3) The reasons such additional time is necessary, including the unavailability of professional or technical personnel or of materials and equipment, or because necessary construction or alteration of facilities cannot be completed by the original abatement date.

(4) All available interim steps being taken to safeguard employees against the cited hazard during the abatement period.

(5) A certification that a copy of the petition has been posted, and if appropriate, served on the authorized representative of affected employees, and a certification of the date upon which such posting and service was made.

A petition for modification of abatement date shall be filed with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA no later than the close of the next working day following the date on which abatement was originally required. A later-filed petition shall be accompanied by the employer's statement of exceptional circumstances explaining the delay. A copy of such petition shall be posted in a conspicuous place where all affected employees will have notice thereof or near such location where the violation occurred. The petition shall remain posted until the time period for the filing of a petition for review of the Commissioner's granting or denying the petition expires. Where affected employees are represented by an authorized representative, said representative shall be served a copy of such petition.

**Notification of Corrective Action** - Correction of the alleged violations which have an abatement period of thirty (30) days or less should be reported in writing to us promptly upon correction. A "Letter of Abatement" form and an "Abatement Photographs" worksheet are enclosed for your assistance in providing adequate documentation of abatement. Reports of corrections should show specific corrective action on each alleged violation and the date of such action. On alleged violations with abatement periods of more than thirty (30) days, a written progress report should be submitted, detailing what has been done, what remains to be done, and the time needed to fully abate each such violation. When the alleged violation is fully abated, we should be so advised. Timely correction of an alleged violation does not affect the initial proposed penalty.

**Follow-up Inspections** - Please be advised that a follow-up inspection may be made for the purpose of ascertaining that you have posted the safety order(s) and corrected the alleged violations. Failure to correct an alleged violation may result in additional penalties for each day that the violation has not been corrected.

**Employer Discrimination Unlawful** - The law prohibits discrimination by an employer against an employee for filing a complaint or for exercising any rights under this Act. An employee who believes that he/she has been discriminated against may file a complaint no later than 30 days after the discrimination occurred with the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above.

**Notice to Employees** - The law gives an employee or his/her representative the opportunity to object to any abatement date set for a violation if he/she believes the date to be unreasonable. The contest must be mailed to the Indiana Department of Labor/IOSHA at the address shown above within fifteen (15) working days (excluding weekends and State holidays) or receipt by the employer of this safety

order and penalty.

If you wish additional information, you may direct such requests to us at the address or telephone number stated above.

**Indiana Department of Labor**

**NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE**

An informal conference has been scheduled with IOSHA to discuss the citation(s) issued on 11/23/2022.

The Informal Conference will be held:

\_\_\_\_\_ Virtually/Telephonically via Microsoft Teams

Call-in Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Conference ID: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ In-person at the Indiana Department of Labor, located at the following address:

402 West Washington Street, Room W195  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Meeting/Conference Room: \_\_\_\_\_

Employees and/or representatives of employees have a right to attend an informal conference.

**Indiana Department of Labor**  
 Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1596722  
**CSHO ID:** Q9916  
**Optional Report No.:** UNKNOWN  
**Inspection Date(s):** 05/17/2022 - 10/18/2022  
**Issuance Date:** 11/23/2022

**Safety Order and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** American Fibertech Corporation  
**Inspection Site:** 3159 Fleenor Road, Mitchell, IN 47446

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**Safety Order 1 Item 1**      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(4)(i): Procedures shall be developed, documented, and utilized for the control of potentially hazardous energy when employees are engaged in the activities covered by this section.  
 Note: Exception: The employer need not document the required procedure for a particular machine or equipment, when all of the following elements exist: (1) The machine or equipment has no potential for stored or residual energy or reaccumulation of stored energy after shut down which could endanger employees; (2) the machine or equipment has a single energy source which can be readily identified and isolated; (3) the isolation and locking out of that energy source will completely deenergize and deactivate the machine or equipment; (4) the machine or equipment is isolated from that energy source and locked out during servicing or maintenance; (5) a single lockout device will achieve a locker-out condition; (6) the lockout device is under the exclusive control of the authorized employee performing the servicing or maintenance; (7) the servicing or maintenance does not create hazards for other employees; and (8) the employer, in utilizing this exception, has had no accidents involving the unexpected activation or reenergization of the machine or equipment during servicing or maintenance.

Mill 3 and mill 1 Auto Stackers - Employees were exposed to pinch point hazards on a daily basis while clearing jams underneath the lift table due to the employer not providing a machine-specific lockout/tagout procedure to control the electrical and pneumatic energy sources.

Develop and implement a written energy-control (lockout/tagout) procedure for the Auto-Stackers located in Mill 3 and mill 1

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

**Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:** January 09, 2023  
**Proposed Penalty:** \$7,000.00

**Indiana Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1596722  
**CSHO ID:** Q9916  
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Safety Order 1 Item 2      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.147(c)(7)(i): The employer did not provide adequate training to ensure that the purpose and function of the energy control program was understood by employees:

Mill 3 and Mill 1 Auto Stackers - Employer did not provide adequate training to ensure operators could conduct a proper lockout/tagout while clearing jams under the lift table on the auto-stacker machines.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:  
Proposed Penalty:

January 09, 2023  
\$7,000.00

**Indiana Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1596722  
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**Safety Order and Notification of Penalty**

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Safety Order 1 Item 3      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.212(a)(1): One or more methods of machine guarding was not provided to protect the operator and other employees in the machine area from hazards such as those created by point of operation, ingoing nip points, rotating parts, flying chips and sparks:

Mill 1 & 3 Auto Stackers - Operators and maintenance personnel were exposed to pinch-point and crush hazards underneath the lift table on a daily basis due to the employer not equipping the lift tables with machine guarding.

Sufficiently guard below the table to prevent employee from exposing themselves to pinch-point and crush hazards when clearing a Jam

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	January 09, 2023
Proposed Penalty:	\$7,000.00



**Indiana Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1596722  
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Safety Order 1 Item 4      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.219(e)(1)(i): Where both runs of horizontal belts are seven (7) feet or less from the floor level, the guard shall extend to at least fifteen (15) inches above the belt or to a standard height, except that where both runs of a horizontal belt are 42 inches or less from the floor, the belt shall be fully enclosed in accordance with paragraphs (m) and (o) of this section.

6 Sorting Line - Operators were exposed to in-going nip point hazards due to the belt and pulley not being enclosed to prevent accidental contact.

Enclose the belt and faces of the pulleys.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:	January 09, 2023
Proposed Penalty:	\$4,000.00

**Indiana Department of Labor**  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**Inspection Number:** 1596722  
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Safety Order 1 Item 5      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.219(f)(3): Sprocket wheels and chains which were seven (7) feet or less above floors, or platforms were not enclosed:

Auto Stacker in Mill 3 and 6 Sorting Line - Operators were exposed to in-going nip point hazards due to an unguarded sprocket wheel and chain.

Enclose the chain and sprockets.

**ABATEMENT DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED FOR THIS ITEM**

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated:  
Proposed Penalty:

Corrected During Inspection  
\$4,000.00



Jeremy Galloway  
Director of Safety

JG: lr-h



# INDIANA

## DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

**ERIC J. HOLCOMB, GOVERNOR**  
**David Redden, Commissioner**  
402 West Washington Street, Room W195  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2751  
Phone: (317) 232-2655  
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### INVOICE/DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

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**Company Name: American Fibertech Corporation**  
**Inspection Site: 3159 Fleenor Road, Mitchell, IN 47446**  
**Issuance Date: 11/23/2022**

**Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number: 1596722**

Citation 1 Item 1, Serious	\$7,000.00
Citation 1 Item 2, Serious	\$7,000.00
Citation 1 Item 3, Serious	\$7,000.00
Citation 1 Item 4, Serious	\$4,000.00
Citation 1 Item 5, Serious	\$4,000.00

**TOTAL PROPOSED PENALTIES: \$29,000.00**

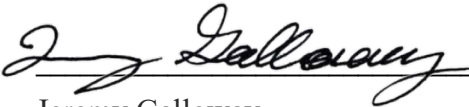
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Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless requested. Make your check or money order payable to: "Indiana DOL/IOSHA." Please indicate IOSHA's Inspection Number (indicated above) on the remittance. You may also make a payment online at <https://payingov.com/dol/>. Your account number is your inspection number.

IOSHA does not agree to any restrictions or conditions, or endorsements put on any check or money order for less than full amount due and will cash the check or money order as if these restrictions, conditions, or endorsements do not exist.

Corrective action taken by you for each alleged violation should be submitted to this office on or about the abatement dates indicated on the Safety Order and Notification of Penalty.

A worksheet has been provided to assist in providing the required abatement information. A completed copy of this worksheet should be posted at the worksite with safety orders.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeremy Galloway  
Director of Safety

11.23.2022  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

JG: lr-h