

# Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
402 West Washington St - Room W195  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: (317)232-2691 FAX: (317)233-3790



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## Safety Order and Notification of Penalty

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**To:**  
R&G Pallets  
and its successors  
6223 Melton Rd.  
Gary, IN 46403

**Inspection Number:** 318120730  
**CSHO ID:** I7062  
**Optional Report No.:** 2281-20  
**Inspection Date(s):** 2/19/2020 - 4/6/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 6/17/2020

**Inspection Site:**  
6223 Melton Rd.  
Gary, IN 46403

*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.*

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An inspection of your place 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 of the 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 agency appointed by the governor with authority to conduct hearings and to issue decisions concerning disputed safety order(s) and notification(s) of penalty. 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 and proof of abatement must be sent to the email address: [AbatementGI@dol.in.gov](mailto:AbatementGI@dol.in.gov) 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.

**PMAs** - 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 be sent to the email address: [AbatementGI@dol.in.gov](mailto:AbatementGI@dol.in.gov) 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 sending the Petition to [AbatementGI@dol.in.gov](mailto:AbatementGI@dol.in.gov). 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 and sent to the email address [AbatementGI@dol.in.gov](mailto:AbatementGI@dol.in.gov). 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 via email at [AbatementGI@dol.in.gov](mailto:AbatementGI@dol.in.gov), 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..

**Followup Inspections** - Please be advised that a followup 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.

**NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES OF INFORMAL CONFERENCE**

An informal conference has been scheduled with IOSHA to discuss the safety order(s) issued on 6/17/2020. The conference will be held at the IOSHA office located at 402 West Washington Street, Room W195, Indianapolis, IN 46204 on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_. 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:** 318120730  
**Inspection Date(s):** 2/19/2020 - 4/6/2020  
**Issuance Date:** 6/17/2020  
**CSHO ID:** I7062  
**Optional Report No.:** 2281-20

**Safety Order and Notification of Penalty**

**Company Name:** R&G Pallets  
**Inspection Site:** 6223 Melton Rd., Gary, IN 46403

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**Safety Order 01 Item 001**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.22(a)(1): All places of employment, passageways, storerooms or service rooms were not kept clean and orderly or in a sanitary condition:

Shop Floor - Employees were exposed to fire hazards when working in areas where saw dust from daily wood cutting operations was not kept as free as practicable from accumulations of saw dust.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$1,050.00**

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Occupational Safety and Health Administration

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#### **Safety Order 01 Item 002**

Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.132(f)(1): The employer did not provide training to each employee who is required by this section to use personal protective equipment:

Shop floor - Employees were exposed to rotating parts when they were wearing gloves while operating 14, 18, and 22 inch chop saw blades. The employees had not received training about not wearing gloves while operating the chop saws.

<b>Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:</b>	<b>7/21/2020</b>
<b>Proposed Penalty:</b>	<b>\$1,500.00</b>

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#### **Safety Order 01 Item 003**

Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.176(b): Material stored in tiers was not stacked, blocked, interlocked or limited in height so that it was stable and secure against sliding and collapse:

Outside yard, pallet storage - Employees were exposed to struck-by hazards when walking by, stacking pallets, and throwing scrap into the dumpster where unsecured and leaning stacks of pallets were present.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:** 7/21/2020  
**Proposed Penalty:** \$600.00



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**Safety Order 01 Item 004**                      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:

- a) Shop floor, pallet dismantler - Employees were exposed to a rotating saw blade when the unused portion below the working surface was not guarded.
- b) Shop floor, pallet dismantler - An employee was exposed to an ingoing nip point which was created when the saw blade went around the tires. The cover did not prevent access to the ingoing nip point on the side opposite the motor and flywheel.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$1,500.00**

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**Safety Order 01 Item 005**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.213(d)(1): Circular handfed crosscut table saw(s) were not guarded by an automatically adjusting hood which completely enclosed that portion of the saw above the table and above the material being cut:

- a) Shop floor, 14" Ridgid chop saw - Employees were exposed to the rotating saw blade when using the Ridgid 14" chop saw when the guard was stuck in an up position.
- b) Shop floor, 18" chop saw - Employees were exposed to the rotating saw blade when using the 18" chop saw without a self-adjusting guard.
- c) Shop floor, 22" chop saw - Employees were exposed to the rotating saw blade when using the 22" chop saw without a self-adjusting guard.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$1,500.00**

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**Safety Order 01 Item 006**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.219(c)(2)(i): All exposed part(s) of horizontal shafting seven (7) feet or less from floor or working platform were not protected by stationary casing(s) enclosing shafting completely or by trough(s) enclosing sides and top or sides and bottom of shafting:

Shop floor, 18" chop saw - Employees were exposed to a rotating horizontal shaft while making cuts at the 18" chop saw.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$1,500.00**

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The alleged violations below have been grouped because they involve similar or related hazards that may increase the potential for injury or illness.

**Safety Order 01 Item 007a**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.219(d)(1): Pulley(s) with part(s) seven feet or less from the floor or work platform were not guarded in accordance with the requirements specified in 29 CFR 1910.219(m) and (o):

- a) Shop floor, 18" chop saw - Employees were exposed to ingoing nip points when there was an inclined belt and pulley transmitting power to the 18" chop saw that was not fully enclosed during operation.
- b) Shop floor, 22" chop saw - Employees were exposed to ingoing nip points when there was an inclined belt and pulley transmitting power to the 22" chop saw that was not fully enclosed during operation.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$1,500.00**

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**Safety Order 01 Item 007b**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.219(e)(3)(i): Vertical or inclined belt(s) were not enclosed by guard(s) conforming to the requirements specified in 29 CFR 1910.219(m) and (o) of this section:

- a) Shop floor, 18" chop saw - Employees were exposed to ingoing nip points when there was an inclined belt and pulley transmitting power to the 18" chop saw that was not fully enclosed during operation.
  
- b) Shop floor, 22" chop saw - Employees were exposed to ingoing nip points when there was an inclined belt and pulley transmitting power to the 22" chop saw that was not fully enclosed during operation.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$0.00**

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The alleged violations below have been grouped because they involve similar or related hazards that may increase the potential for injury or illness.

**Safety Order 01 Item 008a**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.303(g)(1)(ii): The required working space about electric equipment rated 600 volts, nominal, or less to ground, was used for storage:

Shop floor, electrical panels - Employees were exposed to electric shock when the area around two 480 volt electrical breaker panels had miscellaneous shop equipment stored under and around the electrical panels.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$600.00**



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The alleged violations below have been grouped because they involve similar or related hazards that may increase the potential for injury or illness.

**Safety Order 01 Item 009a**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.1200(e)(1): The employer did not develop, implement, and/or maintain at the workplace a written hazard communication program which describes how the criteria specified in 29 CFR 1910.1200(f), (g), and (h) will be met:

Facility wide - Employees worked with chemicals such as, but not limited, to propane when using the forklift for moving pallets and materials around the shop. No program was developed or implemented.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$600.00**



**Indiana Department of Labor**  
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**Safety Order 01 Item 009b**                      Type of Violation: **Serious**

29 CFR 1910.1200(h)(1): Employees were not provided effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in their work area at the time of their initial assignment and whenever a new hazard that the employees had not been previously trained about was introduced into their work area:

Facility wide - Employees were not provided effective information and training on hazardous chemicals in areas where employees worked with or near chemicals such as but not limited to propane.

**Date By Which Violation Must Be Abated:**                      **7/21/2020**  
**Proposed Penalty:**    **\$0.00**

  
Julie C. Alexander, JD  
Director of General Industry

# Indiana Department of Labor

Indiana Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
402 West Washington St - Room W195  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Phone: (317)232-2691 FAX: (317)233-3790



## INVOICE/DEBT COLLECTION NOTICE

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**Company Name:** R&G Pallets  
and its successors  
**Inspection Site:** 6223 Melton Rd., Gary, IN 46403  
**Issuance Date:** 6/17/2020

### Summary of Penalties for Inspection Number: 318120730

**Safety Order 1, Serious** = \$10,350.00  
**TOTAL PENALTIES** = \$10,350.00

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Penalties are due within fifteen (15) working days of receipt of this notification unless contested. 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 work sheet has been provided to assist in providing the required abatement information. A completed copy of this work sheet should be posted at the worksite with the safety order(s).

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Julie C. Alexander, J.D.  
Director of General Industry

6/17/2020

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Date