



MANUFACTURING

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DID YOU KNOW?

OSHA has fined TimkenSteel Corp., an Ohio-based steel manufacturer, nearly \$400,000 after a crane's safety latch failed and 1,000 pounds of equipment fell on a worker and severely injured him. During OSHA's investigation of the accident, inspectors found one "willful," one "repeated" and two "serious" safety violations for exposing workers to falling and electrical hazards.

In a separate incident earlier this year, OSHA issued 17 violations against TimkenSteel. As a result of the manufacturer's continued violations, it has been placed in OSHA's Severe Violator Enforcement Program.

What the Trans-Pacific Partnership Means for Manufacturers

An agreement was recently reached regarding the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), a trade agreement between 12 countries along the Pacific Rim. The agreement is designed to promote international trade by cutting taxes and tariffs on imports and exports, as the Pacific Rim region accounts for 40 percent of the global economy.

According to the federal government, the TPP eliminates foreign taxes on products exported from the United States. Currently, taxes can be as high as 70 percent for automotive parts. President Obama also believes that the agreement will prevent countries in the Asia-Pacific market from creating preferential trade deals with one another.

The TPP has been criticized by some

experts in the manufacturing industry who believe that cheaper foreign goods that are no longer subject to import tariffs will undercut products manufactured in the United States. There is also speculation that the agreement will start a "race to the bottom," in which businesses will attempt to cut costs in order to maximize profits in foreign markets.

While the agreement may go into effect as early as the first quarter of 2016, it could be delayed by the ratification process.

Better Air Quality Can Improve Production

Promoting good indoor air quality (IAQ) will not only protect your workers and keep them productive, but it can also help improve product yields.

IAQ affects any sensitive electronics and equipment in your facility that could be damaged by dust and other debris. Oil mist, dust, fumes and more can get lodged in your equipment and cause substantial damage, forcing production to have to be stopped for maintenance. Keeping work lines clean can help your facility operate at peak efficiency and can keep your business focused on production.

Contact Atlantic Pacific Insurance today to receive resources to improve your IAQ and to help your business operate at its full potential.

