



Press Release:

Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Division Fines Swedwood, Danville for unsafe workplace practices!

October 5, 2010- The Virginia OSHA Division levied fines against Swedwood for numerous unsafe conditions and most importantly for improper record keeping. Confirming an IAM report released in July, VA OSHA found that at least an additional 8 workers were injured during the first half of 2010 which would more than double the accident incidence rate from what was originally reported. From the time OSHA drafted its report and the report was finalized at least 2 other workers were seriously injured.

The OSHA violations and fines expose Swedwood's cover up and should put an end to IKEA's and Swedwood's denials of any problems in Danville. For more than a year, the union has claimed that the injury rate in Swedwood, Danville was unacceptably high. In the July report, the IAM stated that Swedwood was in violation of accident safety reporting requirements. Swedwood's response was to deny any problems. The OSHA violations specifically cite, "1904.31(b)(3): Swedwood Danville, LLC did not record all recordable injuries and illnesses on the 2010 OSHA log, (i.e. Ameristaff employees).

Instead of fighting the union and denying the IAM's requests, had Swedwood recognized the IAM and begun to bargain with the union not only would they have avoided these fines and citations, but more importantly there would be a safer workplace today.

"Hopefully from today forward, IKEA will understand that what the IAM's reports to be a problem is a real problem. We listen to the workers and they tell us the truth. We then inform Swedwood of the problems. Instead of working with us to solve these problems Swedwood has hired an expensive anti-union law firm and are spending substantial amounts of money to maintain an unsafe workplace, and deny these workers their fundamental human right to be represented by the union of their choosing", said IAM Woodworkers Department Director, William Street. "Everyone knows that in a safe work place productivity goes up and costs go down, yet Swedwood continues to deny us access to educate the Swedwood workers as to their rights to form and join a union and they have even posted "NO Trespassing" signs on their property in a futile effort to keep workers away from union representatives."

Proper accident record keeping is required to have a successful safety program. If, because of improper record keeping, it is not even known where the problems are it is impossible to fix them before another accidents occurs.

In addition to improper record keeping, Swedwood was also cited for improper training in regards to Lock out/Tag out procedures. An area also identified in the union report.

Unfortunately, because the union is not allowed to participate in the OSHA inspection process and because workers are too scared to talk about serious work problems in front of Swedwood management for fear of discharge, OSHA missed a number of important issues identified by the union. As of today, every worker who puts a body part in harms way still does not have a lock for “lock out” purposes, reports Street, “Machines operators are still not properly trained on safe machine operation protocols”. The IAM anticipates that until these issues are addressed additional accidents can be expected at Swedwood.

For more information contact:

William Street, Director
Woodworkers Department
IAMAW

Phone: 301-967-4445
Mobile: + 1 202- 355-8175
Email: wstreet@iamaw.org

Appendix 1 OSHA Documentation

Original Penalty Amount in Dollars and proposed reductions for prompt settlement

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| ORIGINAL PENALTY | \$14000.00 |
| PROPOSED PENALTY | \$13500.00 |

Virginia Department of Labor & Industry

Occupational Safety and Health Compliance

Inspection Number: 314457250

Inspection Dates: 05/10/2010-09/13/2010

Issuance Date: 09/21/2010



Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Swedwood Danville LLC

Inspection Site: 100 Swedwood Dr, Ringgold, VA 24586

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

Citation 1 Item 1a Type of Violation: **Serious**

1910.147(c)(6)(i)(C): Where lockout was used for energy control, the periodic inspection did not include a review, between the inspector and each authorized employee, of that employee's responsibilities under the energy control procedure being inspected on various woodworking equipment at Swedwood Danville, LLC location 100 Swedwood Dr., Ringold, VA.

Abatement Documentation Required

Citation 2 Item 1 Type of Violation: **Other Than Serious**

1904.29(b)(2): A supplementary record of occupational injuries and illnesses (OSHA form 301 or equivalent), was not maintained within the establishment for eight recordable injuries in 2010 in the Swedwood Danville LLC location, 100 Swedwood Dr., Ringold, VA.

Abatement Documentation Required

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated: 10/24/2010
Proposed Penalty: \$7,000.00

Citation 2 Item 2 Type of Violation: **Other Than Serious**

1904.29(b)(2): A supplementary record of occupational injuries and illnesses (OSHA form 301 or equivalent), was not maintained within the establishment for three recordable injuries in 2009 in the Swedwood Danville LLC location, 100 Swedwood Dr., Ringold, VA.

Abatement Documentation Required

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated: 10/24/2010
Proposed Penalty: \$3,000.00

Citation 2 Item 3 Type of Violation: **Other Than Serious**

1904.31(b)(3): Swedwood Danville, LLC did not record all recordable injuries and illnesses on the 2009 OSHA log, (i.e. - Ameristaff Employees).

Abatement Documentation Required

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated: 10/24/2010
Proposed Penalty: \$1,000.00