CWS
Coalition for Workplace Safety

Principles of the Coalition for Workplace Safety

- Cooperation: Workplace safety is everyone's concern. Improving it can only happen when all parties—employers, employees, and OSHA—work together to achieve better results. To facilitate OSHA working with employers to improve workplace safety those personnel who will be in contact with employers such as compliance officers must be fully trained so they understand what they are inspecting and can make informed judgments. Compliance officers for MSHA are required to have extensive experience in the mining industry and undergo training before they are allowed to conduct inspections. OSHA compliance officers should have similar preparation.

- Assistance: Employers overwhelmingly want to protect their employees and maintain safe workplaces. Helping them to do this will produce more results than merely punishing them when they fail to do what is required. OSHA should be as much of a resource as an enforcement agency.

- Transparency: Safety regulations must be developed with full transparency of the data, science, and studies relied upon. Those who will be subject to the regulations must be able to assess and critique the quality of these authorities so that any regulations based on them have integrity and impose the least possible burden.

- Clarity: Regulations must be written in simple and clear terms so that small employers and others who need to understand their requirements can do so without the expense and complications of consultants and attorneys. Greater clarity will lead to greater compliance and will lead to improved workplace safety without excessive expenditures of resources.

- Accountability: All parties involved in workplace safety must be accountable for their roles. Employers must provide the necessary training, equipment, resources, and company emphasis to make sure safety in the workplace is a priority. Similarly, employees must accept that ultimately whether a workplace operates safely depends on their actions and decisions.

The CWS is comprised of associations and employers who believe in improving workplace safety through cooperation, assistance, transparency, clarity, and accountability.