

1 NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
2 REVIEW BOARD
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6 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
7 OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND
8 HEALTH ADMINISTRATION, DIVISION
9 OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS OF THE
10 DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND
11 INDUSTRY, STATE OF NEVADA,

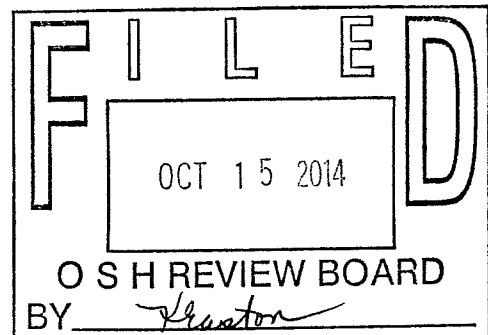
12 Complainant,

13 vs.

14 SILVER STATE WIRE ROPE & RIGGING,

15 Respondent.
16 _____/

Docket No. LV 14-1710



17 **DECISION**

18 This matter came before the **NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**
19 **REVIEW BOARD** at a hearing commenced on the 10th day of September, 2014,
20 in furtherance of notice duly provided according to law. MS. SALLI
21 ORTIZ, ESQ., counsel appearing on behalf of the Complainant, **Chief**
22 **Administrative Officer of the Occupational Safety and Health**
23 **Administration, Division of Industrial Relations** (OSHA). MR. ROBERT
24 PETERSON, ESQ., appearing on behalf of Respondent, **Silver State Wire**
25 **Rope & Rigging.**

26 Jurisdiction in this matter has been conferred in accordance with
27 Nevada Revised Statute 618.315.

28 The complaint filed by the OSHA sets forth allegations of violation
of Nevada Revised Statutes as referenced in Exhibit "A", attached
thereto.

1 Citation 1, Item 1, charges a violation of 29 CFR 1926.251(a)(1),
2 which provides in pertinent part:

3 Rigging equipment for material handling shall be
4 inspected prior to use on each shift and as
5 necessary during the use to ensure that it is safe.
6 Defective rigging equipment shall be removed from
7 service.

8 Complainant alleged that while conducting a hoisting operation to
9 install a zip line cable at the Fremont Street Experience, "controlling
10 employer" Silver State Wire Rope and Rigging did not inspect the rigging
11 system installed to reduce the hoisting load on a base mounted drum
12 hoist. A 3/4 ton (1,500 pound) capacity chain hoist (Columbus McKinnon,
13 Series 653, S/N K2367) used as an anchorage for the system, was
14 overloaded and failed under a load of approximately 5,300 pounds.
15 Failure of the chain hoist resulted in a sudden release of tension in
16 the rigging system, which caused a snatch block (pulley) to slingshot
17 and strike an employee of subcontractor Kamikaze, Inc. The injured
18 employee sustained fractured vertebrae, a fractured skull, internal
19 bleeding, brain trauma and potentially permanent physical and
20 neurological impairment. The violation was classified as "Serious". The
21 proposed penalty for the alleged violation is in the amount of
22 \$4,900.00.

23 Citation 1, Item 2, charges a violation of 29 CFR
24 1926.251(a)(2)(ii), which provides in pertinent part:

25 Employers must ensure that rigging equipment: Not
26 be loaded in excess of its recommended safe working
27 load as prescribed on the identification markings
28 by the manufacturer.

29 Complainant alleged that while conducting a hoisting operation to
30 install a "zip line" cable at the Fremont Street Experience, a
31 mechanical advantage rigging system, installed under the direction of

1 Silver State Wire Rope and Rigging (the controlling employer), was used
2 to reduce the hoisting load on a base mounted drum hoist. A 3/4 ton
3 (1,500 pound) capacity chain hoist (Columbus McKinnon, Series 653, S/N
4 K2367), used as an anchorage for the system, was overloaded and failed
5 under an estimated load of 5,300 pounds. Failure of the chain hoist
6 resulted in a sudden release of tension in the rigging system, which
7 caused a snatch block (pulley) to slingshot and strike an employee of
8 Kamikaze, Inc., the exposing employer. The injured employee sustained
9 fractured vertebrae, a fractured skull, internal bleeding, brain trauma
10 and potentially permanent physical and neurological impairment. The
11 violation was classified as "Serious". The proposed penalty of the
12 alleged violation is in the amount of \$4,900.00.

13 Complainant and respondent stipulated to the admission of
14 documentary and photographic evidence at complainant Exhibits 1 through
15 3 and respondent Exhibit A.

16 Complainant presented testimonial and documentary evidence with
17 regard to the alleged violations. Compliance Safety and Health Officer
18 (CSHO) Tristan Dressler testified as to his inspection and the citations
19 issued to the respondent employer. He referenced his narrative report
20 and testified from the investigative materials at Exhibit 1.

21 On November 13, 2013 compliance and safety officers Dressler and
22 Hill initiated an inspection of the respondent worksite at the Fremont
23 Street Experience in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. The investigation was
24 based upon notification of an incident involving injury to an employee.
25 The CSHOs were granted entry to the site after presentation of
26 credentials and commenced an initial opening conference with the Fremont
27 Street Experience property manager.

28 CSHO Dressler testified that during his investigation he found that

1 an employee of Kamikaze, Inc., under subcontract to respondent Silver
2 State Wire Rope and Rigging (Silver State), was injured while working
3 on installation of the "Slotzilla" zip line ride at the Fremont Street
4 Experience on Fremont Street in downtown Las Vegas, Nevada. The
5 employee, identified as Mr. Andrey Dubinin, was standing on the west
6 landing platform while a wire rope was being hoisted into position. He
7 was struck in the head by a component of the rigging system after a 3/4
8 ton chain hoist failed. The failure of the chain hoist resulted in a
9 sudden release of tension on a secondary wire rope, which propelled a
10 29 pound pulley block across the landing platform, where it struck
11 employee Dubinin in the head and neck. Mr. Dubinin was rendered
12 unconscious from the impact. Employees nearby rendered limited first
13 aid and contacted EMS, which responded and transported Mr. Dubinin to
14 UMC Trauma Intensive Care Unit.

15 Mr. Andrew Rogers was identified as the Project Manager for
16 respondent Silver State. CSHO Dressler testified he was informed by Mr.
17 Rogers the rigging system had been removed after a subsequent successful
18 completion of the zip line installation and a need to clear the scene
19 area to allow opening of the street for traffic which had been closed
20 to accommodate work.

21 CSHO Dressler testified he and CSHO Hill documented the scene with
22 photographs and obtained witness interviews referencing Exhibit 1, pages
23 23 to 42 and photographs at pages 82 to 92 at Exhibit 1.

24 Mr. Rogers identified Mr. Bart Clifford as the Silver State
25 employee foreman in charge of the respondent operations on the job site.
26 CSHO Dressler testified Mr. Clifford informed him he was directing
27 installation of the main "zip line" at the time of the accident. He
28 described the company procedures and the "rigging" operations. Mr.

1 Clifford reported the accident occurred because ". . . the hoisting
2 equipment was loaded beyond capacity . . .". The subcontractor
3 employees of Kamikaze, Inc. assigned to do the rigging work had
4 successfully completed similar work previously. Mr. Clifford "designed
5 the rigging system . . . but did not inspect it . . . before the
6 incident . . .". CSHO Dressler identified the written interview
7 statements at Exhibit 1, page 24 to confirm he (Mr. Clifford) designed
8 the system but did not inspect it before the failure. Mr. Clifford
9 reported that had he noticed the 3/4 ton (1,500 pound) chain hoist in
10 the rigging system he would have pulled the equipment before commencing
11 the work.

12 CSHO Dressler testified the respondent subcontracted Kamikaze Inc.
13 and directed its rigger employees. Kamikaze Inc. had been utilized
14 previously and demonstrated they were a capable and responsible company.
15 Kamikaze employees Messrs. Jones and Futter were directed by Mr.
16 Clifford to perform set up work on the rigging. They were working in
17 conjunction with respondent employees Messrs. Prettyman and Hauck who
18 were "calling out load factors during the rigging set up process . .
19 .".

20 Mr. Clifford reported he ". . . knew the (Kamikaze) employees were
21 trained . . . but never confirmed any training background." The failed
22 hoist and chain component belonged to the respondent. The company did
23 not have a safety policy or procedure requiring inspection of the
24 rigging prior to or during use. The respondent safety program required
25 rigging inspections annually.

26 CSHO Dressler testified 29 CFR 1926.251(a)(1) requires employers
27 conduct safety inspections on rigging systems prior to use on each shift
28 and as necessary during the course of use. No inspections were

1 conducted on the rigging systems based upon his investigation and
2 confirmed by respondent foreman Clifford.

3 CSHO Dressler concluded the **multi-employer worksite doctrine** was
4 applicable based on the multiple employers and employees present. Both
5 respondent Silver State and Kamikaze, Inc. were cited as **controlling**
6 **employers** on a **multi-employer worksite**. The respondent was in overall
7 **control** of the project and installation process as the general
8 contractor. Mr. Clifford utilized and directed both Silver State and
9 Kamikaze employees to effectuate the rigging process designed by Mr.
10 Clifford. Mr. Dressler found no evidence of any inspection conducted
11 on the hoisting equipment by the responsible controlling employer or
12 anyone else.

13 CSHO Dressler testified in further reference to the interview
14 statements at Exhibit 1, page 33 that Kamikaze employee Mr. Jones
15 reported he did not inspect the rigging equipment; nor at Exhibit 1,
16 page 37 did Mr. Stanislaus. He described the photographs in evidence.
17 Exhibit 1, page 85 depicted the failed chain hoist marked to show a
18 capacity of 3/4 ton.

19 He testified there was no dispute the cited standards were
20 **applicable** to the work being performed at the site. The equipment was
21 loaded beyond capacity and no inspection performed by respondent so the
22 **violative conditions** confirmed. Employer knowledge was established from
23 the facts found showing the respondent knew, or **with the exercise of**
24 **reasonable diligence, should have known** of the defective conditions.
25 Respondent foreman Clifford admitted the defective hoist was the
26 property of respondent and the load capacity unsuitable for the designed
27 rigging. Mr. Clifford further admitted he performed no inspection of
28 the equipment before use and assumed it was done by Kamikazi Inc.

1 CSHO Dressler further testified the proof element of **employee**
2 **exposure** was established based upon the potential for serious injuries
3 when overloaded equipment is placed in use without prior inspection in
4 accordance with the requirements of the standard. He confirmed exposure
5 to respondent employees, those of Kamikaze Inc., and other contractor
6 employees on the common job site at the time of the accident. He
7 testified the information discovered during the investigation, including
8 interviews of employees Jones and Futter of Kamikaze Inc. and Prettyman
9 and Hauck of Silver State established they were working together on the
10 **multi-employer site**.

11 Mr. Dressler identified the OSHA 1B worksheet at Exhibit 1, pages
12 43 to 58 and explained the serious classifications and ratings as having
13 been established in accordance with the Nevada Operations Manual.

14 During cross-examination by respondent counsel, CSHO Dressler
15 testified that while the cited violations may appear similar,
16 distinctions existed between hoisting and inspection.

17 Respondent presented witness testimony from Mr. Bart Clifford, the
18 respondent foreman at the subject job site. He testified the chain
19 hoist ". . . failed because it was overloaded beyond its 1,500 pound
20 capacity . . .". He further testified that he explained the load
21 requirements for the system design to Kamikaze employees at daily shift
22 meetings. He performed a job safety analysis (JSA) with all employees
23 at the site, including those of Kamikaze. He testified that he believed
24 the systems were inspected by Kamikaze because it was "their
25 responsibility . . .". He thought Kamikaze was ". . . doing what he
26 designed and had no idea why the incorrect defective equipment was used
27 or even on the job site . . .".

28 On cross-examination Mr. Clifford testified he had the overall

1 authority to enforce all safety at the job site. Silver State employees
2 Prettyman and Hauck were "calling out load factors . . . and both
3 respondent and Kamikaze employees working on the rigging set up . . .".
4 He further testified respondent employees showed Kamikaze employees how
5 to perform the "set up". Mr. Clifford reaffirmed the hoist equipment
6 utilized was ". . . inadequate . . . I do not understand how it got used
7 . . . but it was part of our equipment . . . ". He confirmed his
8 interview statement at Exhibit 1, page 25. Mr. Clifford testified to
9 a question of had he been looking up at the chain hoist would he have
10 recognized it as being inappropriate and responded ". . . yes . . . if
11 I had been looking up . . . but thought Kamikaze had done what I
12 designed . . .".

13 At the conclusion of evidence and testimony, counsel presented
14 closing argument.

15 Complainant asserted the subject worksite was appropriately
16 classified under occupational safety and health law as a **multi-employer**
17 **worksite** given the undisputed number of employers and employees. The
18 respondent was a **controlling** employer under the multi-employer doctrine
19 because foreman Clifford was responsible for the work effort and safety
20 on the project.

21 The respondent subcontracted with Kamikaze for additional labor to
22 help with the rigging work, even though they were mostly "entertainment
23 riggers" not accustomed to the subject particular rigging requirements.
24 The hoist was operated by respondent while Kamikaze employees, working
25 in conjunction with respondent employees performed the actual rigging
26 set up work at the direction of Mr. Clifford.

27 Mr. Clifford, and therefore the respondent by imputation, had
28 overall control and supervision authority at the job site. He told all

1 employees, including those of Kamikaze, how to perform the work with the
2 rigging equipment, conducted the safety meetings for all employers'
3 employees and had OSHA responsibility to assure safety compliance
4 including inspection of the rigging system prior to operation. Just
5 because Mr. Clifford thought the other company (Kamikaze) was doing it,
6 is not a defense and all he had to do as foreman was simply look up and
7 in plain view could have observed, by his own testimony, the equipment
8 was inappropriate for the rigging he designed. The incorrect 3/4 ton
9 hoist was the property of the respondent, even though Mr. Clifford
10 claims he does not know how or why it was utilized at the worksite.

11 Any assertion referenced at respondent's Exhibit A where Kamikaze
12 agreed to follow the respondent safety requirements, is no defense under
13 occupational safety and health law for the failure of a controlling
14 employer to inspect. Counsel concluded by asserting the burden of proof
15 was met and all of the elements of violations satisfied for the two
16 standard citations.

17 Respondent presented closing argument. He asserted there was no
18 "employer knowledge" to satisfy that necessary proof element to support
19 findings of violations. Counsel argued that because OSHA already cited
20 Kamikaze as the "exposing employer" for its own employee injury, it is
21 unfair and makes no sense to cite respondent as a "controlling employer"
22 simply on the premise that ". . . if you were there you are responsible.
23 . .". He further contended that clearly Kamikaze created the hazard by
24 using the wrong hoist. So the question is how far do you allow OSHA to
25 go if a good company like Silver State hires a responsible company like
26 Kamikaze then hold Silver State liable to supervise every detail of what
27 they expected their qualified subcontractor Kamikaze to do to protect
28 its employees. Counsel asserted Mr. Clifford's testimony reflects the

1 hoist was not strong enough for the load but ". . . it was Kamikaze that
2 rigged it . . .". Mr. Clifford designed the rigging system for use of
3 a 3 ton hoist not the 3/4 ton utilized. Somebody at Kamikaze decided
4 to use the 3/4 ton hoist and no one knows why. Two previous set ups on
5 the site were successful then Kamikaze utilized the wrong hoist on the
6 third, and the equipment failure resulted in the accident. No one knows
7 why but it's not the respondent nor any employers duty to assure every
8 detail on every worksite is done with compliance of the OSHA standards.
9 That kind of duty is too broad and not what the law requires. It was
10 reasonable for respondent to rely on the expertise of Kamikaze to do it
11 right. Under applicable OSHA law, a general contractor can rely on a
12 subcontractor's expertise. There is no need for a foreman to watch
13 everybody all the time; and therefore respondent should not be charged
14 with "employer knowledge" because a subcontractor employee did not do
15 what he was supposed to do.

16 The Board is required to review the evidence and established legal
17 elements to prove violations under recognized occupational safety and
18 health law.

19 In all proceedings commenced by the filing of a
20 notice of contest, the burden of proof rests with
the Administrator. (See NAC 618.788(1)).

21 All facts forming the basis of a complaint must be
22 proved by a preponderance of the evidence. See
Armor Elevator Co., 1 OSHC 1409, 1973-1974 OSHD
23 ¶16,958 (1973).

24 To prove a violation of a standard, the Secretary
must establish (1) the applicability of the
25 standard, (2) the existence of noncomplying
conditions, (3) employee exposure or access, and
26 (4) that the employer knew or with the exercise of
reasonable diligence could have known of the
27 violative condition. See *Belger Cartage Service,*
Inc., 79 OSAHRC 16/B4, 7 BNA OSHC 1233, 1235, 1979
28 CCH OSHD ¶23,400, p.28,373 (No. 76-1948, 1979);
Harvey Workover, Inc., 79 OSAHRC 72/D5, 7 BNA OSHC

1 1687, 1688-90, 1979 CCH OSHD 23,830, pp. 28,908-10
2 (No. 76-1408, 1979); *American Wrecking Corp. v.*
3 *Secretary of Labor*, 351 F.3d 1254, 1261 (D.C. Cir.
4 2003).

5 A respondent may rebut allegations by showing:

- 6 1. The standard was inapplicable to the situation
7 at issue;
- 8 2. The situation was in compliance; or lack of
9 access to a hazard. See, *Anning-Johnson Co.*,
10 4 OSHC 1193, 1975-1976 OSHD ¶ 20,690 (1976).

11 NRS 618.625 provides in pertinent part:

12 ". . . a serious violation exists in a place of
13 employment if there is a **substantial probability**
14 **that death or serious physical harm could result**
15 **from a condition** which exists, or from one or more
16 practices, means, methods, operations or processes
17 which have been adopted or are in use in that place
18 of employment unless the employer did not and could
19 not, with the exercise of reasonable diligence,
20 know of the presence of the violation."

21 The elements of proof to establish violation of the cited standard
22 at Citation 1, Item 1 were met by preponderant evidence. It was
23 unrefuted the standard was **applicable** to the facts in evidence. There
24 was no claim or rebuttal to the contrary. **Non-complying conditions** were
25 established by the witness testimony of both CSHO Dressler and Mr.
26 Clifford. Mr. Clifford was the job site foreman and supervisory
27 employee of the respondent employer. He conducted no **inspection** of the
28 hoisting equipment that eventually failed. He testified the hoist did
not have the load capability for the subject work and failed. **Employer**
knowledge was established through the witness testimony of supervisory
employee Clifford. Under principles well recognized in occupational
safety and health law that supervisory knowledge is imputed to the
respondent employer. **Employee exposure** was proven by direct **access** to
hazardous conditions. The unrefuted witness testimony and interview
reports described respondent and Kamikaze Inc. employees working on or

1 near the rigging system at the common job site. The evidence documented
2 after the accident established the accident conditions and resultant
3 injuries to Kamikaze employee Dubinin.

4 Under Occupational Safety and Health Law, there
5 need be **no showing of actual employee exposure in**
6 **favor of a rule of access** based upon reasonable
7 predictability - (1) the zone of danger to be
8 determined by the hazard; (2) access to mean that
9 employees either while in the course of assigned
10 duties, personal comfort activities on the job, or
11 while in the normal course of ingress-egress will
12 be, are, or have been in the zone of danger; and
13 (3) the employer knew or could have known of its
14 employees' presence so it could have warned the
15 employees or prevented them from entering the zone
16 of danger. *Gilles & Cotting, Inc.*, 3 OSHC 2002,
17 1975-1976 OSHD ¶ 20,448 (1976); *Cornell & Company,*
18 *Inc.*, 5 OSHC 1736, 1977-1978 OSHD ¶ 22,095 (1977);
19 *Brennan v. OSAHRC and Alesea Lumber Co.*, 511 F.2d
20 1139 (9th Cir. 1975); *General Electric Company v.*
21 *OSAHRC and Usery*, 540 F.2d 67, 69 (2d Cir. 1976).

22 The primary defensive position asserted on behalf of respondent is
23 the lack of **employer knowledge** of the violative conditions. However,
24 the respondent employer knew, or **with the exercise of reasonable**
25 **diligence** could have known of the violative conditions. The violative
26 equipment was owned by respondent and installed in **plain view**. The
27 hoist was clearly marked showing only a 3/4 ton capacity instead of the
28 required 3 ton limit.

29 In general, the actual or constructive **knowledge of**
30 **a supervisory employee will be imputed to the**
31 **employer**, and thus constitute a prima facie showing
32 of employer knowledge. Where supervisory knowledge
33 can be imputed, OSHA need not also show that there
34 were deficiencies in the employer's safety program.
35 *Halmar Corp.*, 18 OSH Cases 1014, 1016-17 (Rev.
36 Comm'n 1997), *aff'd on other grounds*, 18 OSH Cases
37 1359 (2d Cir. 1998). *But see L.R. Willson & Sons*
38 *Inc. v. OSHRC*, 134 F.3d 1235, 1240-41, 18 OSH Cases
39 1129 (4th Cir. 1998), and cases cited therein at
40 footnote 31. Occupational Safety and Health Law, 2nd
41 Ed., Rabinowitz at page 87. (emphasis added)

42 ". . . (A) **supervisor's knowledge** of deviations

1 from standards . . . is properly **imputed to the**
2 **respondent employer.** . . ." *Division of Occupational*
3 *Safety and Health vs. Pabco Gypsum*, 105 Nev. 371,
4 775 P.2d 701 (1989). (emphasis added)

5 Actual knowledge is not required for a finding of
6 a serious violation. **Foreseeability and**
7 **preventability** render a violation serious provided
8 that a **reasonably prudent employer**, i.e., one who
9 is safety conscious and possesses the technical
10 expertise normally expected in the industry
concerned, would know of the danger. *Candler-*
Rusche, Inc., 4 OSHC 1232, 1976-1977 OSHD ¶ 20,723
(1976), appeal filed, No. 76-1645 (D.C. Cir. July
16, 1976); *Rockwell International*, 2 OSHC 1710,
1973-1974 OSHD ¶ 16,960 (1973), aff'd, 540 F.2d
1283 (6th Cir. 1976); *Mountain States Telephone &*
Telegraph Co., 1 OSHC 1077, 1971-1973 OSHD ¶ 15,365
(1973). (emphasis added)

11 The OSHA safety compliance requirements on a **multi-employer**
12 **worksite for all employees** are deemed under occupational safety and
13 health law to be the responsibility of a **controlling employer**.

14 The testimonial, and stipulated documentary evidence established
15 the subject worksite was appropriately classified a **multi-employer**
16 **worksite** under occupational safety and health law. It was unrefuted
17 there were at least two or more employers with employees on the site.
18 The respondent, while not the employer of injured subcontractor
19 (Kamikaze) employee Dubinin, exposed that employee to hazardous
20 conditions at a worksite under its **control**. The evidence established
21 the respondent general contractor employer was a **controlling employer**
22 notwithstanding any similar citations against the subcontractor for the
23 purpose of satisfying responsibility for **employee hazard exposure** under
24 recognized occupational safety and health law. Respondent Silver State
25 was in **control** of the overall job site operation, including safety
26 compliance for the rigging equipment and set up. Through foreman
27 Clifford, **employer knowledge** is imputed to the respondent. Under well
28 established occupational safety and health law,

1 "... liability is imposed ... on a contractor who
2 creates a hazard **or who has control over the**
3 **condition on a multi-employer worksite ...**". See,
4 *Brennan v. OSHRC (Underhill Construction Corp.)*,
5 513 F.2d 1032 (2nd Cir. 1975). The commission and
6 courts have recognized that protection from hazard
7 exposure to employees is the responsibility of the
8 employer and confirmed that "... policy is best
9 effectuated by placing responsibility for hazards
10 on those who create them."

11 In 1996 the Federal Review Commission (OSHRC) expanded the **multi-**
12 **employer construction** worksite doctrine beyond construction sites to
13 multi-employer **worksites in general**. In *Rockwell International Corp.*
14 17 OSHC 1808 No. 11 (1996), the Review Commission recognized that while
15 multi-employer worksite defenses originally arose in the context of
16 **construction**, they are also applicable in other areas of employment
17 where there are **frequently a number of different employers working at**
18 **the same time**.

19 The unrefuted evidence established Mr. Clifford was directing both
20 Kamikaze and respondent employees in the overall rigging set up and job
21 effort but did not perform or assure the required inspection.

22 The Citation 1, Item 1 standard is clear by use of the phrase
23 "shall be inspected" to require a specific duty for compliance. Absent
24 ambiguity, a statute's **plain meaning** controls, and no further analysis
25 is permitted. *State Farm Mut. Auto. Ins. Co. v. Commissioner of Ins.*,
26 114 Nev. 535, 540, 958 P.2d 733, 736 (1998). Only where a statute's
27 language is ambiguous, must a court look to legislative history and
28 rules of statutory interpretation to determine its meaning. *Leven v.*
Frey, 123 Nev. 399, 404, 168 P.3d 712, 716 (2007). A statute's language
is ambiguous when it is capable of more than one reasonable
interpretation. *Id.* Internal conflict can also render a statute
ambiguous.

1 Based upon the facts and applicable law the Citation 1, Item 1
2 violation and classification of **serious** must be confirmed.

3 NRS 618.625 provides in pertinent part:

4 ". . . a serious violation exists in a place of
5 employment if there is a **substantial probability**
6 **that death or serious physical harm could result**
7 **from a condition** which exists, or from one or more
8 practices, means, methods, operations or processes
which have been adopted or are in use in that place
of employment unless the employer did not and could
not, with the exercise of reasonable diligence,
know of the presence of the violation."

9 There was a preponderance of evidence in the record to support the
10 classification of the violation as serious.

11 In reviewing Citation 1, Item 2, the Board finds the cited
12 violative conditions were similar or very closely interrelated with
13 Citation 1, Item 1, making the separate charge of violation and proposed
14 penalty duplicitous. A resultant added violation and penalty
15 constitutes an unwarranted excessive punitive burden. The goal of the
16 Occupational Safety and Health Act is to assure workplace safety.
17 Neither the number of violations nor the amount of monetary penalties
18 necessarily correlate to correction or resolution of unsafe working
19 conditions. Given the evidence and facts of violation, it is
20 appropriate that the violative conditions found be confirmed at Citation
21 1, Item 1, but denied at Citation 1, Item 2.

22 The Federal courts recognize the exclusive authority of the
23 Commission (Board) to assess or adjust penalties.

24 If an employer contests the Secretary's proposed
25 penalty, the Review Commission has **exclusive**
26 authority to assess the penalty, the Secretary's
27 penalty is considered merely a proposal. Relying
28 on the language of Section 17(j), the Commission
and courts of appeal have consistently held that it
is for the Commission to determine, **de novo**, the
appropriateness of the penalty to be imposed for
violation of the Act or an OSHA standard. (Emphasis

added)

The Review Commission therefore is not bound by OSHA's penalty calculation guidelines. The Commission evaluates all circumstances.

The Board finds a violation as a matter of fact and law that at Citation 1, Item 1, confirms the classification of serious and a penalty in the amount of \$4,900.00. The Board further finds that no violation at Citation 1, Item 2, based upon duplication for the interrelated violative worksite conditions and denies the violation, classification and proposed penalty.

Based upon the above and foregoing, it is the decision of the **NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD** that a violation of Nevada Revised Statutes is confirmed at Citation 1, Item 1, 29 CFR 1926.251(a)(1), the Serious classification confirmed and the penalty approved in the amount of Four Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$4,900.00).

It the further decision of the **NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD** that no violation of Nevada Revised Statutes did occur at Citation 1, Item 2, 29 CFR 1926.251(a)(2)(ii), the Serious classification and proposed penalty are denied.

The Board directs counsel for the complainant, **CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ENFORCEMENT SECTION, DIVISION OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS** to prepare and submit proposed Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to the **NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD** and serve copies on opposing counsel within twenty (20) days from date of decision. After five (5) days time for filing any objection, the final Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law shall be submitted to the **NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH REVIEW BOARD** by prevailing counsel. Service of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions

1 of Law signed by the Chairman of the **NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND**
2 **HEALTH REVIEW BOARD** shall constitute the Final Order of the **BOARD**.

3 DATED: This 15th day of October 2014.

4 NEVADA OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
5 REVIEW BOARD

6 By /s/
7 JOE ADAMS, Chairman
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