Citation and Notification of Penalty

Company Name: Carter's Retail Inc.
Establishment DBA: Carter's Children's Wear and its successors
Inspection Site: 8300 Arroyo Circle, Suite A280
Gilroy, CA  95020

Citation 1 Item 1   Type of Violation: Regulatory

T8 CCR Section 342(a). Reporting Work-Connected Fatalities and Serious Injuries.

(a) Every employer shall report immediately to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health any serious injury or illness, or death, of an employee occurring in a place of employment or in connection with any employment. The report shall be made by the telephone or through a specified online mechanism established by the Division for this purpose. Until the division has made such a mechanism available, the report may be made by telephone or email.

Immediately means as soon as practically possible but not longer than 8 hours after the employer knows or with diligent inquiry would have known of the death or serious injury or illness. If the employer can demonstrate that exigent circumstances exist, the time frame for the report may be made no longer than 24 hours after the incident.

Serious injury or illness is defined in section 330(h), Title 8, California Administrative Code.

The employer failed to immediately report by telephone, online mechanism, or email to the Division the serious illness suffered by an employee who was hospitalized as a result of COVID-19 on or about June 17, 2020.

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated: Corrected During Inspection
Proposed Penalty: $5000.00
Citation and Notification of Penalty

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Citation 2 Item 1  Type of Violation: Serious

T8 CCR Section 3203(a). Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

(a) Effective July 1, 1991, every employer shall establish, implement and maintain an effective Injury and Illness Prevention Program (Program). The Program shall be in writing and, shall, at a minimum:

(1) Identify the person or persons with authority and responsibility for implementing the Program.

(2) Include a system for ensuring that employees comply with safe and healthy work practices. Substantial compliance with this provision includes recognition of employees who follow safe and healthful work practices, training and retraining programs, disciplinary actions, or any other such means that ensures employee compliance with safe and healthful work practices.

(3) Include a system for communicating with employees in a form readily understandable by all affected employees on matters relating to occupational safety and health, including provisions designed to encourage employees to inform the employer of hazards at the worksite without fear of reprisal. Substantial compliance with this provision includes meetings, training programs, posting, written communications, a system of anonymous notification by employees about hazards, labor/management safety and health committees, or any other means that ensures communication with employees.

(4) Include procedures for identifying and evaluating work place hazards including scheduled periodic inspections to identify unsafe conditions and work practices. Inspections shall be made to identify and evaluate hazards:
(A) When the Program is first established;
(B) Whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment are introduced to the workplace that represent a new occupational safety and health hazard; and
(C) Whenever the employer is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard.

(5) Include a procedure to investigate occupational injury or occupational illness.
(6) Include methods and/or procedures for correcting unsafe or unhealthy conditions, work practices and work procedures in a timely manner based on the severity of the hazard:
(A) When observed or discovered; and,
(B) When an imminent hazard exists which cannot be immediately abated without endangering employee(s) and/or property, remove all exposed personnel from the area except those necessary to correct the existing condition. Employees necessary to correct the hazardous condition shall be provided the necessary safeguards.

(7) Provide training and instruction:
(A) When the program is first established;
(B) To all new employees;
(C) To all employees given new job assignments for which training has not previously been received;
(D) Whenever new substances, processes, procedures or equipment are introduced to the workplace and represent a new hazard;
(E) Whenever the employer is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard; and,
(F) For supervisors to familiarize themselves with the safety and health hazards to which employees under their immediate direction and control may be exposed.

(8) Allow employee access to the Program.
(A) As used in this subsection:
1. The term "access" means the right and opportunity to examine and receive a copy.
   
2. The term "designated representative" means any individual or organization to whom an employee gives written authorization to exercise a right of access. A recognized or certified collective bargaining agent shall be treated automatically as a designated representative for the purpose of access to the Program.
   
3. The term "written authorization" means a request provided to the employer containing the following information:
   a. The name and signature of the employee authorizing a designated representative to access the Program on the employee’s behalf;
   b. The date of the request;
   c. The name of the designated representative (individual or organization) authorized to receive the Program on the employee’s behalf; and
   d. The date upon which the written authorization will expire (if less than one (1) year).

(B) The employer shall provide access to the Program by doing one of the following:
1. Provide access in a reasonable time, place, and manner, but in no event later than five (5) business days after the request for access is received from an employee or designated representative.
   a. Whenever an employee or designated representative requests a copy of the Program, the employer shall provide the requester a printed copy of the Program, unless the employee or designated representative agrees to receive an electronic copy of the Program.
   b. One printed copy of the Program shall be provided free of charge. If the employee or designated representative requests additional copies of the Program within one (1) year of the previous request and the Program has not been updated with new information since the prior copy was provided, the employer may charge reasonable, non-discriminatory reproduction costs (per Section 3204(e)(1)(E)) for the additional copies. or,
2. Provide unobstructed access through a company server or website, which allows an employee to
review, print, and email the current version of the Program. Unobstructed access means that the employee, as part of his or her regular work duties, predictably and routinely uses the electronic means to communicate with management or coworkers.

(C) The Program provided to the employee or designated representative need not include any of the records of the steps taken to implement and maintain the written Program.

(D) If an employer has distinctly different and separate operations with distinctly separate and different Programs, the employer may limit access to the Program (or Programs) applicable to the employee requesting it.

(E) The employer shall communicate the right and procedure to access the Program to all employees.

(F) Nothing in this section is intended to preclude employees and collective bargaining agents from collectively bargaining to obtain access to information in addition to that available under this section.

Prior to and during the course of the inspection, including but not limited to, on July 01, 2020, the employer failed to establish, implement and maintain an effective Injury Illness Prevention Program (IIPP) in the following instances:

Instance 1: The employer failed to establish and maintain a written Injury and Illness Prevention Program. [3203(a)]

Instance 2: The employer failed to effectively implement methods or procedures to correct unhealthy conditions, work practices, or work procedures relating to SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19, that affected its employees including, but not limited to, the failure to implement virus-specific screening procedures for all employees entering the facility or another effective practice, means, or process to prevent employee exposure to the virus. [3203(a)(6).]

Instance 3: The employer failed to conduct training with its employees to include information on COVID-19 infection, including but not limited to prevention, symptoms, reporting and the employer’s plan to control and prevent transmission. [3203(a)(7)]

Date By Which Violation Must be Abated: January 25, 2021
Proposed Penalty: $10125.00

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Kelly Tatum
Compliance Officer / District Manager