

2.3.1 Source and Secondary Source of Injury or Illness—Definition, Rules of Selection

3.0 DEFINITION

The Source and Secondary Source identify the objects, substances, equipment, and other factors that were responsible for the injury or illness incurred by the worker or that precipitated the event or exposure. The Source and Secondary Source are coded according to the previously identified Event or Exposure as dictated by the Rules of Selection:

GENERAL RULES OF SELECTION FOR SOURCE:

3.1 Whole versus part

3.1.1 Part of a machine, tool, or vehicle

If the injury or illness was inflicted by a specific **part** of a **machine, tool, or vehicle**, name the **whole** machine, tool, or vehicle as the source of injury except when:

- the part separated from or was independent of the "whole";
- the event is overexertion involving an outside source;
- the injury was inflicted by an overhead powerline or the electrical cord of an appliance, tool, or machine;
- the injury was inflicted by the floor of a vehicle in a non-transportation incident;
- the injury was inflicted by a separate machine attached to a vehicle, such as a conveyor attached to a truck;
- the incident involved a tractor and agricultural equipment combination.

In those instances, code that part as source.

Items being transported by a vehicle are considered part of the vehicle. For example, if a box that is being moved by a forklift strikes a worker while still on the forklift, the forklift is considered the source.

3.1.2 Part of a structure

If the injury or illness was inflicted by a specific **part** of a **structure** (window, door, stairs) name that **part** as the source of injury.

*-Asterisks denote a summary level code not assigned to individual cases.

3.2 Containers

When an injury or illness was produced by a filled **container**, name the container, not the contents, as the source unless the injury or illness was directly inflicted by the contents, such as hot liquids or chemicals.

3.3 Bodily motion or position

Name **Bodily motion or position** as the source of injury or illness only when the injury resulted solely from the stress or strain induced by the free movement of the body or its parts (voluntary or involuntary), or from the assumption of a strained or unnatural body position.

Bodily motion or position includes injuries or illnesses resulting from reaching, turning, twisting, bending, walking, climbing, running, and from efforts to recover from a loss of equilibrium, provided that the loss of equilibrium does not result in a fall or in forcible contact with an object above the working surface.

Do **not** name **Bodily motion or position** as the source of injury or illness if the injury or illness resulted from any of the following:

- falling,
- bumping into or striking an external object,
- nonrepetitive lifting, pushing, pulling, wielding, or throwing an external object.

For injuries or illnesses in which either **Repetitive motion** or **Sustained viewing** is coded as the event, select bodily motion or position as the source of injury or illness.

3.4 Choosing between multiple objects or substances:

3.4.1 Contacts with objects or equipment (event): When an injury results from forcible contact with two or more objects, either simultaneously or in rapid sequence, and it is impossible to determine which object directly produced the injury, select the source as follows:

- When the choice is between a moving object and a stationary object, select the moving object. *Example: If a person is struck by a rolling vehicle and thrown against a post, name the vehicle as the source of injury.*
- When the choice is between two moving objects or between two stationary objects, select that which was contacted last. *Example: If a worker is struck by a roll of paper and then a box and it is unclear which caused the head injury, code the box as the source.*

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3.4.2 When an injury or illness results from two or more different objects or substances, all of which contributed to producing the injury or illness, select the source code as follows:

- Select the "Multiple" code for that combination of objects and substances if one exists at the appropriate level;
- When the two objects or substances are in the same division and there is no appropriate "Multiple" code, select the divisional n.e.c. code for that division. If they are in the same group within a division, select the group n.e.c.;
- When the two objects or substances are not in the same division, use the code for **Other sources, n.e.c.**

3.5 **Weather, atmospheric conditions, and geological events**

Select **Weather and atmospheric conditions** or geological events—**Floods, Earthquakes, Avalanches**—as the source of injury or illness when that is the only possible source identified.

For example, if a worker sustained multiple injuries in an earthquake, and no other source could be determined, select earthquake as the source of injury. However, if an employee were driving in a rainstorm and was injured in an automobile accident, select the vehicle as the source.

GENERAL RULES OF SELECTION FOR SECONDARY SOURCE:

3.6 **Codes to be used**

Use the Source of Injury or Illness Classification Structure for coding secondary source of injury or illness.

3.7 **When two objects or substances contributed to an event**

In the absence of a specific rule, if **two objects or substances** contributed to an event, name the object, or substance which was not selected as the source. If more than two objects, substances, other than source, are involved, select:

- powered or energized objects over nonpowered objects,
- moving objects over nonmoving objects,
- objects actively contributing to the event over passive objects.

3.8 **Weather, atmospheric conditions, and geological events**

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Select **Weather and atmospheric conditions** or geological events—**Floods, Earthquakes, Avalanches**—as the secondary source of injury or illness when that is the only possible secondary source identified.

For example, if a worker sustained multiple injuries when struck by an object in an earthquake, select earthquake as the secondary source.

3.9 **No contributing factors**

If **no object, substance, or person** is determined to meet the definition and rules listed above, no secondary source is selected. Objects which inflict an injury, but which neither generated the source nor contributed to the event, should not be selected as the secondary source.

For example, if a worker falls from a vehicle in a transportation incident and is injured when hitting the road surface, the road is not selected as the secondary source.

RULES OF SELECTION BASED ON EVENT OR EXPOSURE:

3.10 **Violence and other injuries by person or animal**

Source: Name the person or animal responsible for the injury or illness.

Secondary source: Name the injury-producing weapon, object, or substance, if any.

Example: *If a robber shoots a store clerk in the leg with a handgun, the source would be robber and the secondary source would be the handgun.*

3.11 **Transportation incidents**

Source: Name the vehicle the worker was in or on at the time of the incident. If the worker was struck by a vehicle while on foot, name the vehicle which struck him or her.

Secondary source: Name the object or vehicle with which the worker's vehicle collided, if any. If no collision occurred, then name the contributing object or substance, such as ice, rain, etc. And if two objects were struck, code the object that most likely caused the injury.

Example: *If the worker was driving a semitrailer that collided with a passenger van, the source would be the semitrailer and the secondary source would be the passenger van.*

Example: *If the worker was driving a tractor pulling a plow, fell from the tractor and was struck by the plow, the source would be the tractor and the secondary source would be the plow.*

3.12 **Fires and explosions**

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Source: Name the burning substance or object or the item that exploded.

Secondary source: Name the ignition source or contributing factor, if known.

Example: *If a firefighter was burned while extinguishing an electrical fire in a warehouse, the source would be warehouse, and the secondary source would be electrical wiring.*

3.13 Falls, slips, trips

3.13.1 Slips and trips without falls

Source: Name bodily motion as the source when a musculoskeletal injury results.

Secondary source: Name the object or substance that contributed to the slip or trip, if known.

Example: *If a worker trips over a box on the floor and suffers a sprain in recovering, bodily motion is the source and the box is the secondary source.*

3.13.2 Falls on same level

Source: Name the surface on or from which the worker fell.

Secondary source: Name the object or substance, if any, that contributed to the worker's fall.

Example: *If a worker slips on a patch of ice in the parking lot and falls breaking her wrist, the source will be the parking lot and the ice will be the secondary source.*

3.13.3 Falls to lower level

Source: Name the equipment or part of the structure (structural element) from or through which the worker fell.

Secondary source: Name the object or substance, if any, that contributed to the worker's fall.

Example: *If a worker fell to the ground after the roof truss on which he was standing gave way, the source would be the roof truss. The secondary source is left blank because no contributing factor other than the roof truss was mentioned.*

3.14 Contact with objects and equipment

Source: Name the object or substance that directly injured the worker.

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Secondary source: Name the object or substance, if any, that contributed to the contact. For falling objects, name the equipment from which the object fell.

Example: *If a worker is injured from a box falling from a forklift, the box is named as the source, and the forklift is selected as the secondary source.*

3.15 Exposure to harmful substances or environments

Source: Name the substance or environmental condition that injured the worker.

Secondary source: Name the object or environment through which the worker was exposed.

Example: *If a worker suffers heat exhaustion while cleaning the interior of a tanker truck, heat would be named as the source and the tanker truck interior (under confined spaces) would be the secondary source.*

Example: *For indirect contacts with electric current: If a worker is electrocuted from contacting a ladder touching a power line, code the ladder as the source, and the power line as the secondary source.*

3.16 Overexertion and bodily reaction

3.16.1 Overexertion involving outside sources

Source: Name the object over which the worker was exerting physical effort.

Secondary source: Name any contributing object or substance, if any.

Example: *If a worker strains her back while lifting a box, code the box as the source. Leave secondary source blank since there was no contributing object or substance.*

3.16.2 Repetitive motion and bodily reaction

Source: Name bodily motion or position of the injured, ill worker.

Secondary source: Name the contributing equipment, object, or substance, if any.

Example: *If a worker suffers tendonitis in the wrist from cutting meat all day, the source is bodily motion and the secondary source is the knife.*

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