

■ MIGRANT LABOR HOUSING FACILITIES LAW

TERMS: No one may operate a migrant labor housing facility in Texas — briefly defined as one or more structures or vehicles used for more than 3 days as living quarters for 3 or more migrant, seasonal or temporary agricultural workers, or for 2 or more such families, whether or not rent is charged in connection with use or occupancy — without first obtaining an annual license from the state to do so. The license must be kept posted at the facility to which it applies at all times during its maintenance or operation.

Application and Inspection — Application for a migrant labor housing facility license must be made at least 45 days before its intended opening. Within 30 days after receiving an application, the state licensing agency must inspect the facility, and if it meets the minimum standards applicable to such housing, the agency will issue a license.

Minimum Standards — The state has adopted detailed safety and sanitation standards that migrant labor housing must meet to qualify for a license. Among other factors considered in determining if a housing facility meets those standards are these:

- The location and condition of the housing site
- The size and condition of the housing structures
- The water supply
- The electrical system and lighting
- The sewage disposal system
- Cooking and eating arrangements
- Sleeping accommodations
- Heating equipment
- Toilet facilities
- Bathing facilities
- Laundry facilities
- Trash collection equipment and procedures
- The condition of screens on exterior doors and windows
- Insect and rodent control facilities
- Safety equipment and means of emergency escape
- Restrictions on storage of hazardous materials

ENFORCEMENT: *Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Austin, Texas 78711 (512-475-3976).* This agency is responsible for inspecting and licensing migrant labor housing in the state. A worker who has a complaint or question about a migrant housing facility covered by this law may contact TDHCA toll-free, at 877-313-3023.

Using a private attorney or public legal service provider, a worker may apply to district court for an injunction to restrain a violation of any provision of the migrant labor housing facilities law and the associated regulations.