

■ OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970 (*FIELD SANITATION*)

TERMS: Every farm operator or other agricultural establishment that has 11 or more worker on any given day in hand-labor operations in the field must provide the workers with the sanitation facilities described below, without cost to the workers. The employer is required to notify workers of the location of the facilities and afford them reasonable opportunities during the workday to use them.

Drinking Water — Field workers are entitled to a sufficient amount of suitably cool, readily accessible drinking water which meets state or federal health standards. The water provided must be dispensed in single-use drinking cups or by fountain; the use of common drinking cups or dippers is prohibited. Likewise, containers used to store and dispense water must be kept covered, refilled daily (or more often, if necessary), and cleaned regularly.

Toilet and Handwashing Facilities —

Required Equipment — Employers subject to these requirements must provide at least one toilet and one handwashing facility for every 20 workers. Toilet facilities must be adequately ventilated and screened, must have self-closing doors, and must be constructed to assure privacy. Employers are required to maintain toilets and handwashing units in clean and sanitary condition, and to equip them with an adequate supply of toilet paper, soap and single-use towels.

Exception — Toilet and handwashing facilities are not required for workers who perform field work for a period of 3 hours or less during the day (including travel time to and from the field).

Distance Limitation — Sanitation equipment generally must be located within a 1/4-mile walk of each worker's location in the field. However, where the distance limit cannot be met because of ground conditions, the facilities must be placed at the point closest to the field where entry by vehicles is still possible. The toilet and handwashing facilities must be near each other.

ENFORCEMENT: *Wage and Hour Division, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210 (202-693-0072).* Local offices of the Wage and Hour Division may be located on the agency's website, at www.dol.gov/whd/america2.htm.

Under a written plan approved by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, each of the following states is authorized to enforce its own field sanitation standards, identical or very similar to those described above:

Arizona, California, Hawaii, Maryland, Michigan, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, Puerto Rico, Tennessee, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington.

In these states, the Wage and Hour Division generally does not play a part in enforcing the field sanitation provisions. For the name of the state agency responsible for compliance, see the field sanitation summary under the heading "*Health & Safety*" for the particular state of interest.