

■ **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1970 (TEMPORARY LABOR CAMPS)**

**TERMS:** Farm operators and other agricultural employers who operate temporary labor camps for the use of their workers must comply with specific requirements concerning the location, construction and equipment of those facilities. Some of the key provisions of the temporary labor camp standards are summarized here.

**Site** — The land on which a labor camp is located must be adequately drained, protected against flooding, and situated no closer than 200 feet to pools of water. The property must be large enough to prevent crowding of housing units and other buildings, and must be at least 500 feet from areas where livestock is kept.

**Construction** — The housing must be constructed in such a way as to protect occupants from exposure to the elements. Sleeping rooms must contain at least 50 square feet of floor space per occupant and have ceilings at least 7 feet in height. Beds must be provided and spaced to avoid overcrowding. Floors, windows, doors, heating, and cooking facilities must meet specific rules of construction and safety.

**Water Supply** — An adequate and convenient water supply, approved by a state or local health authority, must be provided.

**Toilet Facilities** — An adequate number of toilet facilities in relation to the capacity of the camp must be provided, in accordance with prescribed specifications.

**Sewage Disposal** — Toilets and drains must be connected to a public sewer system, where available.

**Laundry and Bathing Facilities** — Laundry, handwashing, and bath or shower facilities, with hot and cold running water, must be provided in specified numbers, according to the occupancy of the camp. Clothes-drying facilities must also be provided.

**Lighting** — Where electricity is available, light fixtures and electrical outlets must meet minimum requirements as to number and location.

**Trash and Garbage** — At least one container for the disposal of trash and garbage must be furnished for each family, within 100 feet of the unit.

**Cooking and Eating Accommodations** — Equipment for preparing and serving meals must be provided in each family unit or in central cooking and eating areas. Such facilities must comply with specified food service standards.

**Pest Control** — Preventive measures for the control of insects, rodents and other pests at the camp site and in living areas must be followed.

**First Aid** — Adequate and accessible first-aid facilities, approved by a public health authority, must be supplied and maintained in every camp, for emergency treatment of injuries.

**Communicable Disease Reporting** — The person in charge of the camp must report to the local public health authority all cases of communicable disease, food poisoning, and similar outbreaks.

**ENFORCEMENT:** *Occupational Safety and Health Administration, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C. 20210 (202-693-1999; toll-free 800-321-6742).*

Under a written plan approved by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, each of the following states is authorized to enforce its own temporary labor camp 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, OSHA generally does not play a part in enforcing the labor camp provisions. For the name of the state agency responsible for compliance, see the first summary under the heading "*Housing*" for the particular state of interest.