

■ **WASHINGTON INDUSTRIAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ACT OF 1973 (*TEMPORARY WORKER HOUSING*)**

**TERMS:** The state labor and industries director has adopted standards regulating temporary labor camps provided by employers for the use of their workers. Washington's temporary labor camp standards are very similar to those established by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (*see entry, U.S. — Housing — General Employee Housing Standards*) but include unique provisions of particular note, some of which are summarized here:

**Licensing** — Unlike the OSHA standards, the regulations adopted by the state require that temporary worker housing be licensed, provided the facility is occupied by 10 or more workers, or consists of 5 or more dwelling units. The licensing process is handled by the state health department, as described in the next entry.

**Maximum Occupancy** — The regulations limit the number of occupants allowed in each camp, based on actual floor space in the sleeping areas and the number of toilet, bathing and other facilities available.

**Tents** — Tents are allowed to be used as housing for temporary workers, but only while employed for the harvest of cherries. Each tent must be constructed to sleep no more than 15 workers.

**Safety Devices** — There must be a functioning, properly installed carbon monoxide alarm in each housing unit with a sleeping area. Likewise, there must be a properly installed and working smoke alarm in each sleeping area and in each cooking area. Fire extinguishers are required in units where occupants sleep if the unit does not have a second means of emergency escape.

**ENFORCEMENT:** *Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries, Olympia, Washington 98504 (360-902-5494; toll-free 800-423-7233).*

The agency responsible for licensing of temporary worker housing facilities in Washington is the *Temporary Worker Housing Program, Office of Environmental Health and Safety, Washington State Department of Health, Olympia, Washington 98504 (360-236-3330).*

**SPECIAL NOTE:** An employer may not fire, discipline or discriminate against a worker because the worker has filed a complaint or made use of any other right granted by this law. Retaliation should be reported to the Department of Labor and Industries within 30 days after the violation occurs.