



Date: May 1, 2015

Subject: Update – Revised Standard for Heat Illness Prevention

On April 3, 2015 the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board adopted a revised standard for Heat Illness Prevention (California Code of Regulations, Title 8, Section 3395). The revised standard takes effect on May 1, 2015. The full text the revised standard can be viewed on the Cal/OSHA website at:

<https://www.dir.ca.gov/title8/3395.html>.

The revised standard is similar to the previous standard, with clarifications and additional employer requirements. Below are key points to be aware of in the newly revised standard (as conveyed in the February 20, 2015 edition of the CalOSHA reporter):

- Water must be "fresh, pure, suitably cool" and located as close as practicable to where employees are working, with exceptions when employers can demonstrate infeasibility.
- Shade must be present at 80 degrees, instead of the prior 85, and accommodate all employees on recovery or rest periods, and those onsite taking meal periods.
- Employees taking a "preventative cool-down rest" must be monitored for symptoms of heat illness, encouraged to remain in the shade and not ordered back to work until symptoms are gone. Employees with symptoms must be provided appropriate first aid or emergency response.
- High-heat procedures (which will remain triggered at 95 degrees) shall ensure "effective" observation and monitoring, including a mandatory buddy system and regular communication with employees working by themselves. During high heat, employees must be provided with a minimum 10-minute cool-down period every two hours.
- Emergency response procedures include effective communication, response to signs and symptoms of heat illness and procedures for contacting emergency responders to help stricken workers.
- Acclimation procedures including close observation of all employees during a heat wave - defined as at least 80 degrees. New employees must be closely observed for their first two weeks on the job.

Supervisors are advised to review all the updated training and educational materials available on the Cal/OSHA website and on the UC ANR EH&S website. Compliance with the revised standard can be achieved by updating the Heat Illness Prevention Plan (Attachment H) in your Injury and Illness Prevention Plan (IIPP), training staff on the new plan, and having the revised Heat Illness Prevention Plan available at all outdoor worksites where temperatures may exceed 80°F. An updated Heat Illness Prevention Plan template can be downloaded from the Risk and Safety Services website here: <http://safety.ucanr.edu/files/212284.pdf>. Note: this template document must be completed with site specific information before use. Additional information and materials are available at: http://safety.ucanr.edu/Programs/Heat_Illness_Prevention/

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