

INDOOR WORKERS: HEAT REGULATIONS

In fall 2016, California's Governor Jerry Brown signed a bill directing Cal/OSHA to adopt a regulation to prevent heat illness for indoor workers. SB 1167, as it is currently called, is designed to address heat-related illnesses of indoor workers such as warehouse and factory employees. This specific indoor heat standard is not expected to go into effect until 2019. However, it should be noted that existing California law already protects employees from working in dangerous conditions.

SENATE BILL NO. 1167

SB 1167 will require Cal/OSHA to adopt a standard to protect the health and safety of indoor workers from heat-related illness and injury, while further implicitly mandating a high-heat provision.



PURPOSE

"According to Senator Connie M. Leyva, the bill's author, the current sheet distributed to employers to protect workers is insufficient in preventing heat illness injuries in places such as warehouses, factories and more. The lack of a clear standard leaves many California workers at risk."

Studies show that when in-plant temps rise over 85%, output drops by 18% and accuracy suffers from a 40% increase in errors.

TIME LINE

By July 1, 2018, California Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) is to propose to the Occupational Health and Safety Standards Board for its adoption a heat illness and injury prevention standard for all indoor employees at risk of heat illness. This bill will go into effect by January 1, 2019.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



- Get involved as a business owner! Contact Policy Advocate Marti Fisher to be a part of the discussion.
- Plan ahead! Develop a cooling plan for your facilities now.
- Consider energy-efficient cooling methods - such as evaporative cooling - to cool large, open air spaces. Fans simply circulate stale air. Portacool evaporative coolers come in a variety of sizes to cool any space where traditional air conditioning is impractical or cost-prohibitive.

Sources:

- https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201520160SB1167
- <http://aalrr.com/publications/alerts/qp/new-california-law-protects-workers-from-indoor-heat-exposure>
- <http://sd20.senate.ca.gov/news/2016-06-01-%E2%80%9Cworker-heat-safety-act%E2%80%9D-clears-senate-floor>
- <http://advocacy.calchamber.com/2016/10/06/governor-signs-bill-directing-development-of-indoor-heat-illness-standard/>
- Study for NASA. *Comfort Conditioning the Plant with Evaporative Cooling.* Plant Engineering pg.76 Joseph Marg and "Evaporative Air Conditioning Handbook." John Walt, PE and Will Brown PE 3rd edition pg 201.