ESSENTIAL INFORMATION
March 2015

State Occupational Safety and Health Standards

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In 1970, President Nixon signed into law the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Act, the first comprehensive piece of legislation aimed at protecting workers from dangers they may face on the job. Every year, millions of work-related injuries and illnesses are reported, thousands of workers are killed on the job, and tens of thousands more die from occupational diseases. Safety and health regulations and statutes (also known collectively as “standards”) can prevent many of these deaths and injuries.2

Under the OSH Act, states are permitted to substitute their own rulemaking and enforcement agencies for the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), as long as the state programs are “at least as effective” as the federal agency. Twenty-five states, plus Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, have federally-approved state programs.

These state programs must either adopt federal safety and health standards issued by OSHA, or pursue their own regulations or statutes (referred to in these maps and data as “state-specific standards”).

There are two broad types of state-specific standards, depending on whether there is a federal OSHA counterpart to the state standard. The first group consists of state standards that supplement or replace, in whole or in part, an existing federal OSHA rule. The second group consists of state-specific standards that protect workers from hazards not addressed in any federal OSHA rule.

These pages include all state-specific standards that concern specific workplace safety and health hazards and that are enforced by state OSHA programs.

The regulations and statutes are broken into six different industrial categories. Each category has its own map:

1. Agriculture
2. Construction
3. General Industry
4. Maritime
5. Mining
6. Oil and Gas

The first four categories, Agriculture, Construction, General Industry, and Maritime, are based on federal OSHA classifications, while the latter two, Oil and Gas, and Mining, are based on industrial categories covered by state-specific standards, and have no federal OSHA counterpart (the oil and gas industries are not specifically covered by federal OSHA regulations, while mining workplace safety is regulated by a separate federal agency, the Mine Safety and Health Administration, or MSHA).

Workers, unions, policymakers, researchers, regulated entities, and others can use these pages to inform themselves about the different state-specific occupational safety and health protections available in their own state or in other states across the country.

The Occupational Safety and Health maps are intended to be tools for reviewing regulations and laws in one state or for comparing them across several states. The portal is not intended to provide legal advice. Please consult legal counsel for specific questions about the application of law in your state.

**NAVIGATING THE DATA**

There are two ways to navigate the data using the interactive maps: by selecting a state from the map or by selecting criteria that detail the characteristics of the laws.

**Option 1 – State by state:** Using the map, click on the state of interest. A table will appear with details about that state’s law.

**Option 2 – Multiple states:** To view the law across multiple states, you may use the questions to filter through various criteria. Clicking on a question will expand the answers/criteria for you to select. In some cases, secondary questions may appear after answering one of the primary questions — these secondary questions dig deeper into the detail of that specific area of the law. The map will change based on the criteria you select.

There are 25 states included on each map. The laws for each of the 25 states have a single effective date. This date corresponds to the date on which the state plan received “Initial Approval” from federal OSHA. This initial approval represents the date on which the state plan was authorized to commence rulemaking and enforcement activities.

**Maritime and Mining**

These two maps have two questions ascertaining whether the state has any standards issued specifically for employers and workers in those industries:
• Does the state have its own occupational safety and health plan, authorized by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to enforce occupational safety and health standards in that state?
• Has the state issued any occupational safety or health standards for the Maritime/Mining industry that were not adopted by reference from the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)?

**Oil and Gas**

There are five states with standards for the oil and gas industries. The questions in this dataset are based on the division of this broad category into two smaller and distinct industries:

1. Drilling, Servicing, and Production
2. Refining, Transportation, and Handling

The primary questions are:

• Does the state have its own occupational safety and health plan, authorized by the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to enforce occupational safety and health standards in that state?
• Has the state issued any occupational safety or health standards that apply specifically to employers in the Oil and Gas industry?
• Does the state have a standard addressing Oil and Gas Drilling, Servicing, or Production?
• Does the state have a standard addressing Oil and Gas Refining, Transportation, or Handling?

**General Industry, Construction, and Agriculture**

The questions for the remaining three maps, General Industry, Construction, and Agriculture are based primarily on the classification of the federal OSHA regulations in 29 CFR 1910 (General Industry), 29 CFR 1926 (Construction), and 29 CFR 1928 (Agriculture). Please refer to the regulations contained within each of these federal OSHA regulatory chapters to clarify the meaning of the technical terms used in the three maps’ questions.

In the General Industry and Construction maps, the questions correspond – roughly – to the broad Subparts (D to Z in 29 CFR 1910 and C to CC in 29 CFR 1926) within each of these regulatory chapters.

In the Agriculture dataset, only a few of the questions are based on the federal OSHA agricultural regulations in 29 CFR 1928, with the rest derived primarily from federal OSHA’s General Industry regulations at 29 CFR 1910.

To the extent possible, state standards were classified according to this federally-derived classification scheme. In some cases, the federal Subpart or regulation title was modified to
account for novel state standards. An example of this is the question in the Construction dataset for “Steel Erection and Wood Framing” that was initially based on Subpart R Steel Erection in 29 CFR 1926, but that had to be modified to account for state-specific standards addressing wood framing operations within the context of steel erection activities.

In yet other cases, a new parent or child question had to be created where no analog to a state standard could be found in any of the three federal OSHA regulatory chapters. An example of this would be the questions in the General Industry and Agriculture datasets on “Heat and Cold Stress” that have no federal counterparts.

**Scope of standards within each industrial category**

For the most part, General Industry standards apply to all employers in the state, unless superseded by another, industry-specific standard in one of the other five industrial categories, or as indicated otherwise in the standard’s scope or applicability provisions. Standards in the five other industry-specific datasets apply only to employers in those respective industries.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Additional resources with information about federal and state occupational safety and health agencies and standards include:


This collection of laws does not provide legal advice nor does it address enforcement of laws, administrative policies, case law, or any other sources of law. Should you have a specific question about these laws in your state, please contact an attorney in your jurisdiction.