

# Memorandum

**To** : ALL STANDARDS BOARD MEMBERS

**Date** : January 5, 2009

**From** : **Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board**  
Conrad E. Tolson, Senior Engineer - Standards

**Subject** : GISO 3241.2 Earthquake Hazards in the Workplace

An advisory committee<sup>1</sup> met in Sacramento on December 10, 2008, to consider proposed amendments to the General Industry Safety Orders in response to a petition<sup>2</sup>. However, they were unable to reach consensus on the necessity for new regulations regarding earthquake hazards in the workplace. Issues identified by the committee included the following:

- Lack of statistics/scientific data linking workplace injuries and fatalities to earthquakes.
- Lack of engineering or scientific basis to establish triggers (height and weight of objects) for when and what kind of seismic restraint should be provided.
- Sections 3241(c), (e), 3241.1 and 3203 already address hazards that might reasonably occur due to an earthquake.
- GISO Section 3203 already requires employers to conduct inspections, identify potential hazards and correct or mitigate them.
- The intent of this proposed standard can be accomplished with existing standards, by using outreach and training.
- Title 8 standards must be reasonable, enforceable and contribute to worker safety. This proposal would expose employers to citations without any significant improvement in worker safety.

Consequently, unless otherwise directed by the Board, staff proposes to terminate this rulemaking action.

---

<sup>1</sup> Invited: Management 13, Labor 11, Interested parties 11, Government 2  
Attended: Management 8, Labor 1, Interested parties 3, Government 2

<sup>2</sup> OSHSB File No. 477 from Mr. Russ Pepin, President, Quake Proof, Inc., adopted March 16, 2006.