

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY  
AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

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Date: May 2, 2014

Dear: Advisory Committee Member

Subject: California Code of Regulations, Title 8, General Industry Safety Orders, Article 13, Section 3441 "Operation of Agricultural Equipment" regarding the use of tractor-mounted personnel transport platforms.

You are invited to participate in an advisory committee to be convened by the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Board) staff. The Board received two similar petitions (combined because of their similarity as Petition No. 536) in July of 2013. The Petitioners, Buttonwillow Land and Cattle Company and WM. Bolthouse Farms, Inc., requested that the Board set standards for the entire farming community related to the use of agricultural tractors and tractor-mounted personnel transport platforms (PTPs). PTPs are used to transport workers in field crop operations involving the installation and removal of irrigation piping.

The General Industry Safety Orders, Section 3441(a)(2)(B) prohibits riders on agricultural equipment, other than persons required for instruction or assistance in machine operation. The Division of Occupational Safety and Health requires growers to have a temporary experimental or permanent variance in order to permit the use of PTPs.

As a result of the Board's Decision dated November 13, 2013 regarding Petition No. 536, Board staff will be convening a two-day advisory committee on May 21-22, 2014 to help determine whether standards should be adopted regarding the use of PTPs.

The advisory committee will be held:

**Wednesday, May 21, 2014, 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.; and,  
Thursday, May 22, 2014, 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (or until adjournment)**

**California Farm Bureau Federation  
First Floor Conference Room  
2300 River Plaza Drive  
Sacramento, CA 95833**

Enclosed are the advisory committee roster, agenda, draft proposed text and a copy of the Board's Decision regarding Petition No. 536. Please note that the inclusion of a draft proposal does not mean that a rulemaking action will automatically be undertaken. The proposal is similar to some of the provisions required to obtain a variance. The necessity for a rulemaking action will be considered with the assistance of the advisory committee.

Please be prepared to discuss the issues outlined in the agenda and those presented in the Board's Decision regarding Petition No. 536. Also, please consider whether any rulemaking action would result in any costs or economic impact to employers or affected industries. If you cannot attend the meeting, please send an alternate, if possible, or submit your written comments by May 14, 2014, so that the committee can consider them.

Some general information to note is that Highway 50 in Sacramento is undergoing some major repairs with several eastbound lanes closed until May 21, 2014. During commute hours, there has been some backup of traffic near the intersections of Interstate 5 and Highway 50. For more information, visit the Caltrans website at <http://fix50.com/>. Also, note on the meeting Agenda that we will break early for lunch.

Your assistance is appreciated, and we look forward to seeing you at the advisory committee meeting. Also, if you have any questions or would like to discuss any items prior to the meeting, please contact me at (916) 274-5724, or at: [ghauptman@dir.ca.gov](mailto:ghauptman@dir.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

George Hauptman, Senior Engineer-Standards

Attachments:

Agenda

Advisory Committee Roster

Regulatory text (Draft Proposal)

The Board's Petition No. 536 Decision.

cc: All Standards Board Members

Marley Hart, Executive Officer, OSHSB

Michael Manieri, Principal Engineer, OSHSB

Juliann Sum, Acting Chief, DOSH

Deborah Gold, Deputy Chief, DOSH

Eric Berg, Acting Principal Engineer, DOSH

David Shiraishi, Area Director, Region IX, Federal OSHA

Kevin Thompson, Cal/OSHA Reporter