

Petition for change or amend 3395

July 28, 2009

Occupational safety and health standards board

The current standards for heat stress relief in its current form will continue to be open ended and the loop never closed with respect to farm worker heat stress protection.

The only true protection for farm worker heat stress safety in the field is mechanical cooling. The body core temperature must be lowered when in heat stress to save his life.

As you are aware heat stress has been such a political issue with little result the state must put there foot down and make a ruling that protects workers as they have tried to do.

It may be time to consider a possible tax incentive for the grower's participation in safety. Obviously they don't and won't conform to the extent necessary to protect the workers now and will fight the issue forever. Every one there is aware of the issues of heat stress so I will skip the statistics. Below I have authored a rough draft standard for consideration. There is now a product available that provides portable cooling, shade, water, first aid.

Proposed standard revision 3395

Provide work groups of 10 or more a heat relief area no more than 5 walking minutes from the work. The area shall be 20 degrees lower than the ambient temperature of 90 degrees. The area must contain seating, cool water, shade, and first aid kits. The heat relief area shall be in operation at all times when temperatures are 90 degrees and above. The cooling area shall seat a minimum of 12 workers without crowding.

Purpose

Provides workers an opportunity to better survive death and injury from exposures to heat stress and dehydration.

**Thank You
Garth Patterson
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**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH
STANDARDS BOARD**