

§3203. Injury and Illness Prevention Program

(a) Effective July 1, 1991, every **employer shall establish, implement and maintain an effective Injury and Illness Prevention Program** (Program). The Program **shall be in writing and, shall, at a minimum:**

(1) **Identify the person or persons with authority and responsibility for implementing** the Program.

(2) Include **a system for ensuring that employees comply with safe and healthy work practices.** Substantial compliance with this provision includes recognition of employees who follow safe and healthful work practices, training and retraining programs, disciplinary actions, or any other such means that ensures employee compliance with safe and healthful work practices.

(3) Include **a system for communicating with employees** in a form **readily understandable by all affected employees** on matters relating to occupational safety and health, including provisions designed to encourage employees to inform the employer of hazards at the worksite without fear of reprisal. Substantial compliance with this provision includes meetings, training programs, posting, written communications, a system of anonymous notification by employees about hazards, labor/management safety and health committees, or any other means that ensures communication with employees.

(4) Include **procedures for identifying and evaluating** work place **hazards** including **scheduled periodic inspections** to identify unsafe conditions and work practices. Inspections shall be made to identify and evaluate hazards.

(A) When the Program is first established;

(B) Whenever new substances, processes, procedures, or equipment are introduced to the workplace that represent a new occupational safety and health hazard; and

(C) Whenever the employer is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard.

(5) Include a **procedure to investigate occupational injury or occupational illness**.

(6) Include **methods and/or procedures for correcting unsafe or unhealthy conditions**, work practices and work procedures **in a timely manner** based on the severity of the hazard:

(A) When observed or discovered; and,

(B) When an imminent hazard exists which cannot be immediately abated without endangering employee(s) and/or property, remove all exposed personnel from the area except those necessary to correct the existing condition. Employees necessary to correct the hazardous condition shall be provided the necessary safeguards.

(7) Provide **training and instruction**:

(A) When the program is first established;

(B) To all new employees;

(C) To all employees given new job assignments for which training has not previously been received;

(D) Whenever new substances, processes, procedures or equipment are introduced to the workplace and represent a new hazard;

(E) Whenever the employer is made aware of a new or previously unrecognized hazard; and,

(F) For supervisors to familiarize themselves with the safety and health hazards to which employees under their immediate direction and control may be exposed.

(b) Records of the steps taken to implement and maintain the Program shall include:

(1) Records of scheduled and periodic inspections required by subsection (a)(4) to identify unsafe conditions and work practices, including person(s) conducting the inspection, the unsafe conditions and work practices that have been identified and action taken to correct the identified unsafe conditions and work practices. These records shall be maintained for at least one (1) year; and

(2) Documentation of safety and health training required by subsection (a)(7) for each employee, including employee name or other identifier, training dates, type(s) of training, and training providers. This documentation shall be maintained for at least one (1) year.

A. Written documentation of the identity of the person or persons with authority and responsibility for implementing the program as required by subsection (a)(1).

B. Written documentation of scheduled periodic inspections to identify unsafe conditions and work practices as required by subsection (a)(4).

C. Written documentation of training and instruction as required by subsection (a)(7).

Exception No. 4: Local governmental entities (any county, city, city and county, or district, or any public or quasi-public corporation or public agency therein, including any public entity, other than a state agency, that is a member of, or created by, a joint powers agreement) are not required to keep records concerning the steps taken to implement and maintain the Program.

(c) Employers who elect to use a labor/management safety and health committee to comply with the communication requirements of subsection (a)(3) of this section shall be presumed to be in substantial compliance with subsection (a)(3) if the committee:

(1) Meets regularly, but not less than quarterly;

(2) Prepares and makes available to the affected employees, written records of the safety and health issues discussed at the committee meetings and, maintained for review by the Division upon request. The committee meeting records shall be maintained for at least one (1) year;

(3) Reviews results of the periodic, scheduled worksite inspections;

(4) Reviews investigations of occupational accidents and causes of incidents resulting in occupational injury, occupational illness, or exposure to hazardous substances and, where appropriate, submits suggestions to management for the prevention of future incidents;

(5) Reviews investigations of alleged hazardous conditions brought to the attention of any committee member. When determined necessary by the committee, the committee may conduct its own inspection and investigation to assist in remedial solutions;

(6) Submits recommendations to assist in the evaluation of employee safety suggestions; and

(7) Upon request from the Division, verifies abatement action taken by the employer to abate citations issued by the Division.

The above information is provided free of charge by the Department of Industrial Relations from its web site at www.dir.ca.gov.