

Field Sanitation for Agricultural Hand Labor

OAR 437
Division 4/J

Field Sanitation
for Agricultural Hand Labor

General Requirements

OAR 437-004-1110, Field Sanitation for Agricultural Hand Labor, applies only to work done in the field by hand or with hand tools. It does not apply to work done in permanent structures. Covered work includes weeding, cultivation, picking, sorting and any contact handwork with the plants, soil or crops. It also applies to the operation of machinery in conjunction with hand labor.

The employer must provide and pay for everything required by these field sanitation rules.



Drinking water

The standard clearly defines “potable water.” In practical terms, you must provide water that is safe to drink. Whether you get the water from your own well or bring it to the field in containers, it must be free of contaminants and safe to drink. The rule doesn’t specifically require you to have the water tested, but if you don’t, you can’t be sure it meets the requirements for “potable water.” If the water is later found unsafe, you are subject to citation. You must provide single-use cups and employees may not use dippers or dip their cups into a common container. Change the water in portable containers daily. Clean the containers frequently. Clearly label non-potable water that is unsafe for drinking, washing, or use with food.

Toilets

A toilet can be either fixed or portable and can be chemical, flush, biological, combustion or a sanitary privy. Privies and portable toilets built after October 1, 1998 must comply with rules of the Department of Environmental Quality. All toilets must have self-closing doors that latch from the inside. They must have adequate ventilation and screens, be in good repair, and be clean. When there are no separate urinals, seats must have rings that raise.



- Where practicable, provide separate toilets for each sex and label them accordingly in a language understood by the workers.
- There must always be enough toilet paper. There must be a toilet paper holder or dispenser for each toilet seat.
- You must provide at least one toilet for every 20 workers or portion of 20.
- Toilets must be within a five-minute or 1/4 mile unobstructed walk for all workers.



Hand washing facilities

A hand washing facility must include an adequate supply of potable water, soap and single-use towels. You may NOT substitute chemical hand cleaners for the soap and water. There must be one hand-washing facility for every 20 workers or portion of 20. Hand washing facilities must be adjacent to the toilet facilities. Provide a covered container for used paper towels and refuse. For more information on Oregon OSHA’s position about chemical hand cleaners, see the link in “Other Resources” below.



Web site:
www.orosha.org

Salem Central Office
350 Winter St. NE, Rm. 430
Salem, OR 97301-3882

Phone: (503) 378-3272
Toll-free: (800) 922-2689
Fax: (503) 947-7461



Maintenance and general rules

- Toilets and hand washing facilities must comply with appropriate public health rules and practices.
- All facilities must be clean, safe and working properly.

FIELD SANITATION NOTICE

AN IMPORTANT REMINDER: To minimize hazards posed by:

- heat
- communicable diseases
- urine retention
- and agri-chemical residues

Remember to use the facilities provided and:

- drink water often, especially on hot days
- use facilities as often as needed
- wash your hands before and after using toilets and before eating or smoking

Employers must provide basic sanitation facilities and supplies for agricultural workers who are preparing, pruning, planting, harvesting, packaging, or doing other hand labor with crops in the field. **Your employer must provide:**

- Safe drinking water and a proper way to dispense it
- Clean toilet facilities and adequate supplies
- Adequate hand washing facilities, including potable water, soap, and single-use towels

You have the right to file a complaint with the Oregon Occupational Safety & Health Division (OR-OSHA) if your employer is not providing the items above. To file a complaint, contact:

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Portland 1750 NW Naito Parkway, Ste. 112 Portland, OR 97209-2533 (503) 229-5910 Consultation: (503) 229-6193 | Eugene 1140 Willagillespie, Ste. 42 Eugene, OR 97401-2101 (541) 686-7562 Consultation: (541) 686-7913 | Bend Red Oaks Square 1230 NE Third St., Ste. A-115 Bend, OR 97701-4374 (541) 388-6066 Consultation: (541) 388-6068 |
| Medford 1840 Barnett Rd., Ste. D Medford, OR 97504-8250 (541) 776-6030 Consultation: (541) 776-6016 | Pendleton 721 SE Third St., Ste. 306 Pendleton, OR 97801-3056 (541) 276-9175 Consultation: (541) 276-2353 | Salem 1225 Ferry St. SE, U110 Salem, OR 97301-4282 (503) 378-3274 Consultation: (503) 373-7819 |

For more information about the field sanitation rules, contact:

Salem Central
350 Winter St. NE Rm. 430
Salem, OR 97301-3882
(503) 378-3272 or (800) 922-2689
Spanish-language phone: 1 (800) 843-8086

DEPARTMENT OF
CONSUMER BUSINESS & SERVICES
Oregon Occupational
Safety & Health Division

440-1000 (02/11) OVER

SERVICIO DE SANIDAD DEL CAMPO AVISO

ES IMPORTANTE RECORDAR: que para reducir el peligro producido por:

- el calor
- enfermedades contagiosas
- retención de la orina
- y residuos de productos químicos

Deberá utilizar las instalaciones de sanidad disponibles y:

- beber agua con frecuencia, especialmente en los días de calor
- usar los servicios tantas veces como sea necesario
- lavarse las manos antes y después de ir a los baños así como antes de comer o fumar

Como trabajador(a) de agricultura en El Estado de Oregon usted tiene derecho al uso de instalaciones sanitarias equipadas con artículos de aseo mientras hace trabajos de preparación, poda, plantado, cosecha, empaquetado o cualquier otro trabajo manual en las cosechas del campo. **Su patrón tiene que proporcionarle lo siguiente:**

- Agua potable y la manera mas propia de dispensarla y distribuirla
- Servicio de baños en condiciones limpias y con artículos de higiene
- Instalaciones adecuadas para el lavado de manos, incluyendo agua potable, jabón y toallas de uso individual

Usted tiene el derecho de presentar una queja a la Division De Seguridad y Salud En El Trabajo (OR-OSHA) si su patrón no le proporciona las condiciones y artículos de sanidad que aquí se mencionan.

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Portland 1750 NW Naito Parkway, Ste. 112 Portland, OR 97209-2533 (503) 229-5910 Consultation: (503) 229-6193 | Eugene 1140 Willagillespie, Ste. 42 Eugene, OR 97401-2101 (541) 686-7562 Consulta: (541) 686-7913 | Bend Red Oaks Square 1230 NE Third St., Ste. A-115 Bend, OR 97701-4374 (541) 388-6066 Consulta: (541) 388-6068 |
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Para presentar una queja o para solicitar más informes comuníquese a la siguiente dirección:

Departamento de Servicios para Consumidores y Negocios de Oregon
Division de Salud y Seguridad Ocupacional de Oregon (OR-OSHA)
350 Winter St. NE Rm. 430
Salem, OR 97301-3882
(503) 378-3272 or (800) 922-2689
Teléfono español: 1 (800) 843-8086

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The Notice

Oregon OSHA offers a free, weather resistant notice in both English and Spanish. You must post this notice for workers who do hand labor on crops intended for human consumption. A good poster location is at each field or where workers congregate.

Responsibility

You must notify every employee of the location of the sanitation facilities required by these rules. You must allow employees to use sanitation facilities when they have need. You must train all field workers on good hygiene practices, avoidance of communicable diseases and at least the following:

- Using the water and facilities provided for drinking, hand washing, and elimination.
- Drinking water frequently, especially on hot days.
- Urinating as frequently as necessary.
- Washing hands both before and after using the toilet.
- Washing hands before eating and smoking.

Working around Agricultural Pesticides?

If your field workers come in contact with pesticide-treated plants or soil, you will find additional requirements for their decontamination in **Division 4, Subdivision W, the Worker Protection Standard.**

Remember

This fact sheet is guidance only about the major points of the standard. To assure the success of your field sanitation program you must refer to **Division 4, Agriculture, Subdivision J, Work Environment.** Find it on the web at: www.orsosha.org click on Rules/Laws, then Rules (final), then Division 4, then Subdivision J.

Other Resources:

Oregon OSHA Web site: www.orsosha.org

Interpretation on washing hands: www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/interps/2002/handsanitizers.pdf

Safe Practices When Working Around Hazardous Agricultural Chemicals, 1951 (8/2011)



OR-OSHA (8/11) FS-15

