

Field Sanitation for Agricultural Hand Labor

OAR 437
Division 4/J

Field Sanitation
for Agricultural Hand Labor

Website:

www.oshha.org

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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 you must be sure it meets the requirements for “potable water.” You must provide a sanitary way to dispense the water, such as single-use cups. 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 using a language or symbols 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.”



Maintenance and general rules

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

Attention Workers! Field Sanitation.
Your employer must provide:

Safe drinking water

- Immediately available and enough for everyone.
- Cool and kept in sanitary containers.
- Dispensed from a water fountain or into personal containers or disposable cups.

Toilets and handwashing facilities

- Your employer must allow you to use the toilet when you need it.
- Facilities must be located together and within a five-minute walk.




- A toilet must be:
 - Clean, private, and have toilet paper.
 - Provided for every 20 workers.
- Handwashing facilities must include:
 - Clean water and soap.
 - Single-use towels and a trash container.

Information
Your employer must tell you:

- The location of the drinking water, toilet, and handwashing.
- About the importance of:
 - Handwashing before and after using the toilet.
 - Avoiding heat stress and infectious diseases.
 - Reducing exposure to pesticide residues.

You have the right to file a complaint with Oregon OSHA if you do not have these things.
 English: 800-922-2689 Spanish: 800-843-8086

Oregon OSHA 449 1000 (12/13) 0208

¡Atención Trabajadores! Sanidad en el Campo.
Su empleador debe proveer:

Agua potable

- Disponible inmediatamente y en cantidad suficiente para todos.
- Fresca y en recipientes limpios.
- Suministrada por medio de una fuente de agua o recipientes personales o en vasos desechables.

Excusados y lavabos

- Su patrón debe permitirle usar el excusado cuando usted lo necesita.
- Los excusados y lavabos deben estar adyacentes y localizados a menos de cinco minutos caminando.




- El excusado debe estar:
 - Limpio, dar privacidad, y tener papel de baño.
 - Uno por cada 20 trabajadores.
- Los lavabos deben tener:
 - Agua limpia y jabón.
 - Toallas de papel desechables y un basurero.

Información
Su patrón debe de informarle sobre:

- El lugar donde está el agua para beber, el excusado y los lavabos.
- La importancia de:
 - Lavarse las manos antes y después de usar el excusado.
 - Evitar el estrés por calor y enfermedades infecciosas.
 - Reducir la exposición a los residuos de pesticidas.

Usted tiene el derecho de presentar una queja con Oregon OSHA si usted no tiene estas cosas.
 Inglés: 800-922-2689 Español: 800-843-8086

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Field sanitation 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 toilet 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, avoiding communicable diseases and at least the following:

- Drinking water frequently, especially on hot days.
- Using the facilities 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 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 ensure 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.orosha.org click on Rules, then Division 4, then Subdivision J.

Other Resources

Oregon OSHA website: www.orosha.org

- [Field sanitation notice](#) in [English](#) and in [Spanish](#)
- [Interpretation on washing hands](#)
- [Safe practices when working around hazardous agricultural chemicals](#)

