

Safety Note #53

FIELD SANITATION REQUIREMENTS



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The California Field Sanitation Standard (also California Code of Regulations Title 8, Section 3457), became effective on April 1, 1992 and addressed portable drinking water, toilets, and hand washing facilities for hand-laborers working in fields. The standard was developed to reduce hand-laborer exposure to pesticides and fertilizers and illness from infections, heat stress, and dermatitis.

Employers that fail to meet the requirements for drinking water, hand washing, and toilet facilities are frequently subject to non-adjustable penalties of \$750 for each infraction. Field sanitation violations are one of the most cited violations issued by Cal/OSHA.

Requirements of the California Field Sanitation Standard

1. Potable Drinking Water

- Potable drinking water shall be provided during working hours and located where readily accessible to all employees at all times.
- Employees shall be notified of the location of potable drinking water and shall be allowed reasonable opportunities during the workday to access the water.
- Potable drinking water shall be fresh and pure, suitably cool, and in sufficient amounts for all employee needs.
- Potable drinking water shall be dispensed in single-use cups or by fountains.
- Potable drinking water containers shall be provided with a faucet or other suitable device for drawing the water.
- Potable drinking water containers shall be regularly cleaned and kept covered and protected to prevent the dipping of water by hand or otherwise becoming contaminated.

2. Toilet and Hand Washing Facilities

- Separate toilet facilities for each sex shall be provided for each 20 employees or fraction thereof.
- One hand washing facility shall be provided for each 20 employees or fraction thereof.
- When there are less than five employees, separate toilet rooms for each sex are not required provided the toilet rooms can be locked from the inside and contain at least one water closet.
- Toilet and hand washing facilities shall be located within one-quarter mile walk or within five minutes, whichever is shorter.
- Employees shall be notified of the location of toilet and hand washing facilities, and shall be allowed reasonable opportunities during the workday to use these facilities.
- Hand washing facilities shall be provided at the toilet unit or in the immediate vicinity.
- Soap or other suitable cleansing agent and single-use towels shall be provided in hand washing facilities.
- Signs shall be posted in hand washing facilities indicating the water is only for hand washing.
- Toilet paper shall be provided in a suitable holder in each toilet unit.
- Toilet and hand washing facilities shall be, at all times, operational, maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and kept in good repair.
- Employees shall be informed of the importance of following good hygiene practices to minimize exposure to the hazards in the field of heat, communicable diseases, retention of urine, and agriculture residues, including to:
 - (a) Drink water frequently, especially on hot days;
 - (b) Urinate as frequently as necessary;
 - (c) Wash hands before and after using the toilet; and
 - (d) Wash hands before eating and smoking.