health and Safety LEGISLATION

health and safety

A Compilation
of State Laws and Regulations

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FOREWORD

Growing recognition of the importance of the working environment in the maintenance and improvement of health and safety has intensified interest in legislation vesting authority in various State agencies for the correction of health and accident hazards and the promotion of improved working conditions.

This compilation was prepared by the former Division of Occupational Health, now known as the Occupational Health Program of the Division of Special Health Services of the Public Health Service. It consists of citations and excerpts or digests of laws and regulations dealing with occupational health and safety. No attempt has been made to evaluate the adequacy or effectiveness of the various provisions. For those interested, suggested language for a State occupational health and safety bill has been worked out by the Bureau of Labor Standards of the U. S. Department of Labor, in cooperation with State labor administrators, management and labor. Copies may be obtained by writing either to the Department of Labor, Washington 25, D. C., or the Council of State Governments, 1737 K Street, NW, Washington 6, D. C.

It is the sincere hope of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare and the Department of Labor, both concerned with the well-being of workers, that this publication may contribute to a better understanding of the separate and joint responsibilities of health, labor and other authorities for the protection of the life, health and safety of workers. Where there are overlaps in jurisdiction, the development of a feeling of partnership between the agencies in carrying out their responsibilities will aid materially in the accomplishment of

their common objectives.

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Appreciation is expressed to the staff of the Occupational Health Program, Division of Special Health Services, Bureau of State Services, for their helpful advice

and assistance.

Appreciation is also expressed to Messrs. J. T. Keating, J. M. Horstkamp, and R. J. McElroy of the former Division of Administrative Management, of the Bureau of State Services, Public Health Service, for their constructive suggestions.

NATURE AND SCOPE OF COMPILATION

In 1950 the Division of Occupational Health of the Public Health Service issued a limited number of copies of a multilithed publication entitled Industrial Health Legislation—A Compilation of State Laws and Regulations. This publication was intended primarily as a source of reference to State legislation dealing with the health and safety of workers at their places of employment. The supply was immediately exhausted, and many requests remained unfilled. To satisfy the continuing need for such information, this more complete and comprehensive revision was undertaken to serve a similar reference function.

In planning the revision, it was intended at first to limit the subject matter strictly to occupational disease prevention and control and to the provision of health measures for employed workers. However, lack of uniformity in the usage, coverage and interpretation of such general terms as health, safety and sanitation made it impossible to draw a sharp line of demarcation. For the sake of completeness the compilation was therefore extended to include information on safety inspection and prevention of accidents. In most instances, statutes dealing with the prevention and control of occupational diseases and the provision of health services for workers are given in detail. Statutes dealing with prevention of accidents are usually described only to the extent necessary to indicate their scope. Treatment of the individual statutes varies, based on such factors as the language of the statutes and their length.

Attention is called to the fact that this compilation does not reflect current practices in the administration and enforcement of such laws in the States. Budgets, availability of personnel, and interpretation of laws, influence the

manner and method in which laws are administered and enforced.

States Covered

Pertinent information is given for all 48 States, the District of Columbia, Alaska, and Hawaii. Excluded from the compilation are the Virgin Islands, for which no coded laws are available, and Puerto Rico, for which the coded laws are available only in Spanish. Municipal and county legislation is not covered.

Agencies Covered

Laws dealing with selected aspects of worker health and safety were examined for the following State agencies: departments of health, labor, industrial relations, agriculture, and education; industrial accident commissions; bureaus and inspectors of mines; public utilities commissions; and a few others, such as State fire marshals for laws regulating health and safety in dry cleaning establishments.

Sources Used

The legal sources used are shown at the beginning of each State. Laws up to and including those enacted during the first half of 1953 were examined for all States. Direct citations are shown in quotation marks, and omitted portions are

indicated by series of three dots. In many instances, depending on the length, the subject material covered, and the wording of the language itself, provisions of a single statute or a group of statutes have been abstracted. The legal source used is repeated for each section only when necessary for clarity or when more than one source is used.

Material shown under rules and regulations promulgated and issued by State health and labor authorities was obtained by writing to these agencies for copies of their rules, regulations, orders, or codes as they are sometimes called. Despite efforts to obtain full information, this material is believed to be incomplete for some of the States.

Pertinent rules, orders, or codes are presented in digest form to give an indication of their scope or content. Copies of the complete rules and regulations are generally available, either free of charge or for a small fee, from the promulgating agency.

Provisions Covered

There is a great deal of legislation which relates directly or indirectly to the health, safety, and welfare of the employed population. To cover all phases would indeed be a prohibitive task. The compilation is therefore limited to selected aspects of occupational health and safety. *Excluded* from the compilation are provisions dealing with hours of labor and wages; regulation or licensing of specific occupational groups such as barbers and beauty operators; licensing and regulation of the handling, distribution, and sale of food products; labeling and regulation of poisons, drugs, caustic acids, and corrosive substances for sale; adulteration and misbranding of food and drugs; licensing and regulation of the sale of mattresses and fertilizers; registration of insecticides and pesticides; water pollution control; plumbing and housing codes; boiler inspection; elevator inspection; prevention and control of fire; and transportation of flammable liquids and explosives.

Selected subjects include the following:

Authority and functions of agencies

Sufficient information is given to indicate the extent and scope of authority and functions of State agencies in the field of occupational health and safety, covering area of responsibility, inspections, rule-making powers and enforcement of laws. Provisions dealing with appointment of commissions, advisory boards or other personnel as well as procedures for promulgating rules and orders, making appeals, conducting hearings, and prosecuting violations, are excluded for the sake of brevity.

General provisions relating to occupational health and safety

Citations or digests are presented of statutes and regulations relating to environmental control of health hazards, prevention of accidents, safety of workplaces and equipment, provision of sanitation facilities, provision of first-aid facilities, industrial homework, and environmental sanitary regulation of food processing and manufacturing establishments. Rules and regulations dealing with food sanitation are admittedly incomplete, since copies of these regulations were not always obtained.

Employment of women and minors

Selected provisions relating to the employment of women and minors cover prohibited or restricted employments, and miscellaneous health and sanitation measures in establishments where they are employed.

Mines and mining

Only a brief outline is given of the subjects covered by mining laws. Details relating to technical specifications and standards have been omitted. Original sources should be consulted for complete information, or copies of laws may usually be obtained by writing directly to the State mining agency or inspector.

Reporting of occupational diseases and injuries

Statutory and regulatory requirements are given for the various agencies with the exception of public utilities commissions, which usually require the reporting of accidents occurring to the public and their employees. Otherwise, requirements for reporting of occupational diseases and accidents by physicians and/or employers to health and labor agencies are covered in full.

Workmen's compensation

Information on workmen's compensation is limited to statutory references, the type of coverage for occupational diseases, and provisions for reporting injuries and for rehabilitation of disabled workers. The administration of workmen's compensation laws has been treated fully in publications of the Bureau of Labor Standards, U. S. Department of Labor, and hence is only referred to briefly here.

Vocational rehabilitation

Provisions relating to vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry are briefly referred to under the agencies having jurisdiction for this activity.

Air pollution control and nuisance control

References to this subject are generally given in full; they are found either under the agency having the jurisdiction or under *Miscellaneous* when authority is delegated to local jurisdictions.

Using the Compilation

There is a wide diversity in type and extent of authority vested in the different agencies in the States. This compilation, therefore, can be used most effectively by reviewing all material under the appropriate headings for all agencies within a State. For instance, the administration and/or enforcement of a particular provision may be vested exclusively in one agency in some States, whereas in others, it may be shared or divided between two or more agencies. The reader's attention is called to such instances by means of cross references.

The heading General provisions relating to occupational health and safety covers a wide variety of subject matter, and is divided into Statutory provisions and Rules and regulations adopted by the respective agencies. Subheadings are sometimes used to guide the reader. However, in searching for information on a particular subject such as prevention of lead poisoning or requirements for ventilation, it is best to examine all material shown under General provisions relating to occupational health and safety for each agency within a State.

An attempt was made to strive for completeness and accuracy of information on the selected aspects of legislation dealing with health and safety of workers. However, lack of uniformity in State laws and regulations and in the manner in which laws are codified, as well as difficulty in interpreting provisions, posed many problems in making pertinent selections. The reader is therefore urged to use this compilation only as a guide and, where indicated, to refer to the legal source itself and to check on current legislation for complete and up-to-date information.

The reader's attention is also called to inconsistencies in spelling and capitalization. In quoted material the style of the statute is adhered to, whereas, in excerpted portions, common usage is generally followed.

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Agriculture, Public Service Commission.

ALABAMA

sources: Code of Alabama 1940, as amended Rules and Regulations of State Agencies

STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Authority and Functions 1

Code of Alabama 1940, Title 22, Section 7. State board of health: authority and jurisdiction. "The state board of health shall have authority and jurisdiction: (1) To exercise general control over the enforcement of the laws relating to public health. (2) To investigate the causes, modes of propagation, and means of prevention, of diseases. (3) To investigate the influence of localities and employment on the health of the people. (4) To inspect all . . . dairies, milk depots, slaughter pens or houses . . . industrial and manufacturing establishments, offices, stores . . . and whenever insanitary conditions in any of these places, institutions, or establishments, or conditions prejudicial to health, or likely to become so, are found, proper steps should be taken by the proper authorities to have such conditions corrected or abated. . . . (6) To adopt and promulgate rules and regulations providing proper methods and details for administering the health and quarantine laws of the state, which rules and regulations shall have the force and effect of law . . . (8) To act as an advisory board to the state in all medical matters and matters of sanitation and public health."

Section 85. State committee of public health required to promulgate and enforce rules for the operation of food-handling establishments. "The state committee of public health shall adopt and promulgate regulations for the construction, maintenance, and operation of all establishments . . . in which foods or beverages intended for human consumption are made, prepared . . . or served, and for the construction, maintenance and operation of hotels . . . as well as of construction camps, and their surroundings. . . ." Rest

of section deals with enforcement by county boards of health.

General Provisions Relating to Occupational Health

None specifically.

Reporting of Occupational Diseases

Title 22, Section 45. Report of physicians as to contagious diseases. "Every physician who is called to a case of any of the diseases named or referred to in section 47 of this title shall . . . make a report thereof to the county health officer or the county quarantine officer and to the state health officer. . . ."

Section 47. Notifiable diseases listed. "... Group B. Occupational diseases and injuries, viz., arsenic poisoning, brass poisoning, carbon monoxide poisoning, lead poisoning, mercury poisoning, natural gas poisoning, phosphorus

¹ Additional references on page 3 (Sections 349 and 351).

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poisoning, wood alcohol poisoning, naphtha poisoning, bisulphide of carbon poisoning, dinitrobenzine poisoning, caisson disease (compressed air illness), any other disease or disability of the nature of the person's employment. . . ."

Nuisance Control

Title 22, Section 75. Nuisances menacing bealth and their abatement. "The following things, conditions and acts, among others, are hereby declared to be public nuisances per se, menacing public health and unlawful . . . (7) The conducting of a business, trade, industry, or occupation, or the doing of a thing, not inherently insanitary or a menace to public health in such a manner as to make it a menace or likely to become a menace to public health. (8) The conducting of a business . . . or occupation . . . without complying with safeguards for the protection of health as may from time to time be prescribed by the rules and regulations of the state board of health."

Section 76. Nuisance: by whom abated. Provides for abatement of nui-

sance by county boards of health.

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

Authority and Functions

Title 26, Section 3. Functions and duties of the department. "The general functions and duties of the department of industrial relations shall be as follows: (1) To administer all labor laws and all laws relating to the relationship between employer and employee, including laws relating to hours of work, child labor, female employees, working conditions and safety and health in places of employment . . . (4) To make or cause to be made all necessary inspections to determine whether or not the laws . . . and rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto, are being complied with by employers and employees, and to take such action as may be necessary to enforce compliance . . . (5) To propose to the board of appeals, hereinafter provided for, such rules and regulations, or amendments thereto and repeals thereof, as may be deemed advisable for the prevention of accidents (including steam boiler explosions) or the prevention of sickness and diseases in employment and places of employment (including mines) and for the construction, repair and maintenance of places of employment . . . (6) To give instructions and information and to conduct educational programs for the purpose of promoting safety and health in employment and places of employment and to teach first aid . . . (10) To make investigations and studies and to collect, collate and compile statistical information and to make and publish reports, concerning the conditions of labor generally, including living conditions . . . safety devices, safety guards, means and methods of protecting against accidents, illness and diseases in employment, and concerning all matters relating to the enforcement and effect of the provisions of this chapter and the rules and regulations issued pursuant thereto and other labor laws and laws relating to the relationship between employer and employee . . ."

Section 21. Right of entry. "The director of industrial relations or his authorized representative shall have the power and authority to enter any place of employment . . . or public building for the purpose of collecting facts and statistics relating to the employment of workers or for the purpose of making inspections to determine whether or not the labor law and laws relating to the relationship between employer and employee and the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to the provisions of this chapter are being observed. No employer or

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owner shall refuse to admit the director of industrial relations or his authorized representative . . . for the purpose of making any reasonable inspection or impede or instruct him in making any reasonable inspection. . . ."

General Provisions Relating to Occupational Health and Safety Statutory Provisions

Section 12. Duties of employers as to safety: definitions. "Every employer shall furnish employment which shall be reasonably safe for the employees engaged therein and shall furnish and use safety devices and safeguards and shall adopt and use methods and processes reasonably adequate to render such employment and the places where the employment is performed, including mines, reasonably safe for his employees and others who are not trespassers, and he shall do everything reasonably necessary to protect the life, health, and safety of his employees . . . When used in this chapter 'safe' and 'safety' as applied to any employment or place of employment . . . shall include conditions and methods of sanitation and hygiene reasonably necessary for the protection of the life, health and safety of the employees . . ."

Section 13. Prevention of use of dangerous machines, tools, equipment, and structures. Requires posting of notices warning against use when unsafe.

Rules and Regulations

Adopted by the Board of Appeals, Department of Industrial Relations.

1. Basic Safety Manual. Adopted June 15, 1939.

Manual contains 48 brief rules and an explanation of their importance and application in plant safety programs. Rules cover prevention of accidental injuries, plant housekeeping, safety of workareas, equipment and installations, sanitation, personal protective equipment, first-aid facilities, and safety activities. A list of nationally accepted safety codes, recommended for use, is included.

2. Open Pit and Quarry Safety Rules. Effective January 1, 1942.

Rules apply to open pits or quarries where underground tunneling or mining operations are conducted, except where coal mining laws are applicable. Rules cover briefly safety of quarry banks, means of access and openings; sand and gravel excavations; provision of life lines and belts; haulage and hoisting; installation of electrical equipment; explosives and blasting; wet drilling; protective apparel; first-aid training, and sanitation facilities. Prospective employees are required to pass physical fitness examinations.

Employment of Women and Minors

Among pertinent provisions are the following:

Title 26, Section 349. Forbids children under 16 to be employed in specific operations and industries including those in connection with which dangerous or poisonous acids are used, the manufacture or packing of paints, colors, white or red lead, soldering, occupations causing dust in injurious quantities, manufacture of tobacco, and "any place or occupation which the state board of health may declare dangerous to life or limb, or injurious to the health or morals of children under sixteen years of age."

Section 350. Forbids children under 18 to be employed in any mine, coal

breaker, coke oven, or quarry.

Section 351. Authorizes the State Board of Health to declare any place or occupation dangerous to life or limb or injurious to health or morals of children under 16.

Section 370. Requires employers of minors to keep such establishments in a sanitary condition and properly ventilated.

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Section 371. Empowers the Department of Industrial Relations to inspect such establishments, to issue orders for correction of insanitary or unhealthful conditions and to compel compliance with the orders.

Section 372. Authorizes the Department to have free access to establishments

employing minors and prescribes penalty for violations.

Mines and Mining

Title 26, Sections 166 (1) to 166 (87). The Alabama Coal Mine Safety Law of 1949 is administered by the Division of Safety and Inspection. Among the subjects covered by the laws are the following: Certification of mine inspectors and their duties with respect to examinations of mines; provision for a Board of Examiners to pass upon certificates of competency of mine foremen; provision of an adequate supply of first-aid equipment in case of injury or sickness to employees; investigation of mine accidents; requirements for mechanical ventilation equipment, detection of mine gases, minimum volume of air in workways, and coursing of air; safety inspections of gassy mines; rock dusting including specifications for rock dust; explosives and blasting; prevention of fire; testing and timbering or roof support; hoisting and haulage; safeguarding various mining operations and machinery and other equipment; duty of management in complying with provisions of laws; and duty and responsibility of employees in complying with laws and regulations and in using safety and health measures provided for their protection. Laws also contain safety regulations applicable to strip mining operations.

Workmen's Compensation 1

The Workmen's Compensation Law is administered by the Workmen's Compensation Division. (Title 26, Sections 253 to 325)

Occupational Disease Compensation

Sections 313 (1) to 313 (16). Provide for compensation for disability due to "Occupational pneumonoconiosis."

Reporting of Injuries

Section 266. Requires every employer to keep a record of all injuries, fatal or otherwise, for which compensation is claimed or paid, received by employees in the course of their employment, and to report same to the Department of Industrial Relations.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Vocational Rehabilitation

Title 52, Sections 390 to 398. The provisions and benefits of the Federal Act providing for the promotion of vocational rehabilitation of persons disabled in industry or otherwise, are accepted. The State Board of Education is authorized to carry out the provisions of the Act; to expend any funds appropriated for this purpose; to cooperate with federal and State agencies including the Workmen's Compensation agency; to formulate plans for training of such persons; and to make studies and investigations relating to the rehabilitation of disabled persons.

¹ Additional reference this page (State Board of Education).