

OSHA's Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings: How You Can Participate

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for Heat Injury and Illness Prevention in Outdoor and Indoor Work Settings, a significant step toward a federal heat standard. The ANPRM was published on October 27, 2021 and initiated a 60-day public comment period allowing OSHA to gather information, diverse perspectives and technical expertise on topics including heat stress thresholds, heat acclimatization planning, and exposure monitoring.

What opportunities are there for participation?

OSHA's notice-and-comment rulemaking process relies heavily on input from the public, including affected workers, the regulated community, and other stakeholders. OSHA encourages members of the public to review and submit comments on the ANPRM during the public comment period. The ANPRM is available on the Federal Register web page at

www.federalregister.gov/d/2021-23250 and at www.regulations.gov, which is the Federal e-Rulemaking Portal.

How will my participation impact the proposed rulemaking?

OSHA reviews and analyzes all the material in the public rulemaking record to determine if and how it should proceed with rulemaking. The agency makes its decisions based on the evidence in the rulemaking record as a whole.

How can I submit materials or review the materials submitted to OSHA?

You may submit comments and attachments, identified by Docket No. OSHA-2021-0009, electronically at www.regulations.gov. Follow the instructions online for making electronic submissions.

All submissions must include the agency's name and the docket number for this ANPRM (Docket No. OSHA-2021-0009). The docket will be open for 60 days. When submitting comments or recommendations on the issues that are raised in this ANPRM, commenters should explain their rationale and, if possible, provide data and information to support their comments or recommendations. Wherever possible, please indicate the title of the person providing the information and the type and number of employees at your worksite.

All comments, including any personal information you provide, will be placed in the public docket without change and, with the exception of copyrighted materials, will be publicly available online at www.regulations.gov. Therefore, OSHA cautions commenters about submitting information they do not want to be made available to the public or submitting materials that contain personal information (either about themselves or others) such as Social Security Numbers and birthdates.

All comments and submissions are listed in the www.regulations.gov index; however, some information (e.g., copyrighted material) is not publicly available to read or download through that website. All submissions, including copyrighted material, are available for inspection at the OSHA Docket Office. Contact the OSHA Docket Office at 202-693-2350 (TTY number: 877-889-5627) for assistance in locating docket submissions.

What topics is OSHA seeking information on?

OSHA is interested in obtaining additional information about the extent and nature of hazardous heat in the workplace and the nature and effectiveness of interventions and controls used to prevent heat illness. Recommendations should account for indoor and outdoor work environments and businesses of all different sizes. Specifically, OSHA seeks information, data sources, and examples on the following topics:

- Occupational illnesses, injuries, and fatalities due to hazardous heat, including their under reporting and magnitude across geographic regions or among various industries, occupations, job tasks, or businesses of various sizes
- Determinants of hazardous occupational heat exposure and heat-related illness in the work place
- Inequalities in exposures and outcomes among workers of color and low-wage earners
- Structure of work and work arrangements affected by hazardous heat
- Existing efforts on heat illness prevention, including by OSHA, states, employers, or other industry associations
- Heat illness prevention plans and programs
- Engineering controls, administrative controls, and personal protective equipment
- Acclimatization
- Physiologic and exposure monitoring
- Planning and responding to heat illness emergencies
- Worker training and engagement
- Costs, economic impacts, and benefits
- Impacts of climate change on hazardous heat exposure for outdoor and indoor work settings

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory-impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: 1-877-889-5627.

