

● **AGRICULTURAL WORKER HOUSING LAW**

STATUTORY CITATION: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 22-17a

RELATED REGULATIONS: Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 22-17a-1 – 22-17a-12

GENERAL SUMMARY: Chapter 422 of the Connecticut statutes gives the state labor commissioner authority to promulgate regulations and establish standards covering the sanitation and safety of living quarters furnished to agricultural workers and migratory farm laborers by their employers. The state agency is also authorized to conduct inspections of such housing facilities to ensure compliance.

SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Although there is no statutory or regulatory requirement that agricultural worker housing be licensed, agricultural employers who provide living quarters to their employees are responsible for assuring that the housing meets the sanitation and safety standards adopted under this provision of the law. Those regulatory standards are identical to those administered by the state health services commissioner under the public health code, outlined in the previous entry.

SPECIAL NOTES OR ADVISORIES

POSSIBLE PREEMPTION — With respect to enforcement against private employers, it is the position of the Connecticut Department of Labor that these provisions are likely preempted by the temporary labor camp standard enforced by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (*see entry, U.S. — Health & Safety — General Employee Housing Standards*), since Connecticut does not have an OSHA-approved job safety and health plan.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Connecticut Department of Labor, Wethersfield, Connecticut 06109 (860-263-6791)*. On its own initiative or in response to a complaint, the Department is authorized to inspect any housing facility provided to workers by their employer, to determine if the housing meets state standards.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None*.