

● **PUBLIC HEALTH CODE (*SANITATION FOR AGRICULTURAL AND MIGRANT FARM WORKERS*)**

STATUTORY CITATION: Conn. Gen. Stat. § 19a-36

RELATED REGULATIONS: Conn. Agencies Regs. §§ 19-13-B55 – 19-13-B63

GENERAL SUMMARY: The state public health laws authorize the Commissioner of Public Health to establish a public health code, to include, among other provisions, field sanitation and safety protections for agricultural workers and migratory farm laborers.

SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Using the statutory authority referred to above, the health commissioner has adopted migrant labor camp standards, key portions of which are outlined below. Although there is no requirement that such housing be licensed, persons who own or operate facilities used to house migrant agricultural workers must see that the facilities comply with these standards.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS — Agricultural worker housing must be structurally safe, adequate in size, and reasonably easy to keep clean. Doors, windows and other exterior openings must be properly screened, and there must be adequate lighting and ventilation in living areas.

SLEEPING QUARTERS — Single beds must be furnished for all employees housed, together with blankets, sheets, pillows, pillow cases, and mattresses. Bedding must be kept clean and sanitary by the housing owner or operator.

COOKING AND EATING FACILITIES — Among other furnishings and equipment, kitchens are required to have adequate refrigeration and other food storage space, a cook stove, a work table, and a sink with hot water.

WATER SUPPLY — Water supplied to the housing facility must be obtained from a public water supply or from an approved ground water source. At least 30 gallons of water per day per person must be made available, under pressure.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL — Where no city sewage disposal system is available, all wastewater must be disposed of through a system approved by local health authorities.

TOILET, BATHING, AND LAUNDRY FACILITIES — Toilets, wash basins, showerheads or bathtubs, and laundry tubs must be provided in minimum specified numbers.

TRASH DISPOSAL — Metal cans with tight-fitting lids, or approved alternative facilities, must be provided to allow for storage of trash and garbage for later collection and final disposal. Trash must be hauled away as often as necessary so as not to create a nuisance at the housing site.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Environmental Health Section, Regulatory Services Branch, Department of Public Health, Hartford, Connecticut 06134 (860-509-7293)*. Representatives of the Department may inspect any migrant labor housing facility in the state, either in response to a complaint or on its own initiative, to ascertain if the facility meets state standards.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — The state agency may delegate its labor camp inspection authority to local health departments.