

● **STATE SANITATION LAWS (*CONSTRUCTION AND LABOR CAMPS*)**

STATUTORY CITATION: Nev. Rev. Stat. §§ 444.130 – 444.200

RELATED REGULATIONS: Nev. Admin. Code §§ 444.550 – 444.566

GENERAL SUMMARY: Chapter 444 of the state statutes regulates health and sanitation conditions at construction and labor camps in Nevada which house 5 or more employees, implicitly including agricultural workers. The state board of health has adopted detailed standards that such facilities are required to meet as a precondition for issuance of a permit to operate.

SPECIFIC TERMS AND CONDITIONS: Every labor camp that houses 5 or more employees must conform to the health and sanitation standards outlined below, and each such facility is subject to periodic inspection by state and local health authorities.

GENERAL STANDARDS — The structures and grounds must be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. There must be an adequate and convenient supply of water for drinking, cooking, bathing and laundry purposes.

LIVING AND SLEEPING QUARTERS — Sleeping areas must be maintained in clean condition, must provide occupants with effective shelter against the elements, and must be constructed in such a fashion as to assure each occupant an adequate supply of fresh air. The camp owner or operator is required to furnish each resident with a suitable bunk or bed and, if requested by the occupant, a mattress or equivalent sanitary bedding. There must be at least 35 to 40 square feet of floor space per worker in each sleeping area. Heating facilities that meet prescribed safety standards must be provided when a camp is operated during a season and in a climate requiring artificial heating.

COOKING AND EATING FACILITIES — Rooms and structures where food is cooked, prepared or served must be kept clean and sanitary, with doors and windows properly screened. Cookware, dishes and eating utensils must be kept in a clean, unbroken and sanitary condition. There must be facilities for safe storage and refrigeration of food.

TOILET FACILITIES — Every camp must be provided with convenient and suitable privies or other toilet facilities, maintained in a clean and sanitary state. Privies must be screened or otherwise fly-proof, and must be situated over a pit at least 2 feet deep.

BATHING FACILITIES — Convenient and suitable bathing facilities must be provided and maintained in sanitary condition, readily accessible to the living quarters. Where showers are provided for bathing, there must be at least one functioning showerhead for every 15 workers; where bathtubs are used, there must be at least one tub in good condition for every 5 workers. All bathing facilities must have adequate hot and cold water under pressure.

LAUNDRY FACILITIES — At least one laundry tray, wash tub or other laundry facility — equipped with hot and cold water — must be provided for every 10 workers or fraction thereof.

GARBAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL — Covered receptacles for garbage and trash must be supplied by the camp operator, and the contents must be burned, buried or otherwise disposed of in such a way that the refuse does not become offensive or unsanitary. Drainage from kitchen sinks must be carried through a covered drain to a covered septic tank or other sanitary disposal system.

LIGHTING — All habitable rooms must be well lighted. Living, dining and toilet rooms must be equipped with ceiling- or wall-type light fixtures. Where electricity is unavailable, there must be at least one lamp provided for every 5 workers.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Environmental Health Section, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services, Carson City, Nevada 89701 (775-687-7533)*. Representatives of the Department are expressly authorized to enter, during normal business hours, any public or private property where a construction or labor camp is operated, and to inspect all such facilities and the accommodations and equipment connected therewith. Any camp found out of compliance with state standards is regarded as a public nuisance and will be given a reasonable time after written notice to correct the deficiencies. Failure to take corrective action may result in misdemeanor charges in district court against the individual or entity in charge of work in or at the camp.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — Local boards of health are vested with the same inspection and citation authority as exercised by the Department of Health and Human Services in enforcement of the labor camp provisions.