

Participate in Standards Advisory Committees

Cal/OSHA standards are often initiated by petition from labor or industry to the Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board [OSH Standards Board], who will assign development to the Division of Occupational Safety and Health (Cal/OSHA) Research and Standards Development Unit (if they are "health" related standards) or to their own staff (if they are "safety" related standards). The advisory committee is composed of representatives from labor and industry groups most likely to be affected by the standard's requirements (therefore, different people participate in each standard's advisory committee). Experts are also invited to participate. **ANYONE can observe these meetings, and membership is NOT necessary in order to attend.**

Although Advisory Committees are not legally required in standards development and although an advisory committee cannot veto a proposed standard, the program values the expertise and advice of committee members. In fact, proposed standards incorporate the suggestions of committee members and this has helped to ensure the widest possible acceptance of and compliance with Cal/OSHA standards.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP — Committees are composed of people from lists of interested parties kept by both the Division of Occupational Safety and Health and the CAL/OSHA Standards Board. Individuals or organizations known to have an interest in a particular standard or who requested to be on an advisory committee are invited to participate as advisory committee members — insofar as possible, equal numbers of labor, industry and health and safety experts are invited. An attempt is made to include as many different industries and labor groups as possible,

however, no group or organization is given an automatic or guaranteed seat on a committee — nor is it possible to include everyone who wishes to participate as a committee member.

Standards are developed by DOSH (Cal/OSHA) and the OSH Standards Board. So contact both:

Send requests to:

Cal/OSHA Research & Stds Unit
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
415-703-5210 or 415-703-5231 (fax)
www.dir.ca.gov/DOSH/DoshReg/advisory_committee.html

and

OSH Standards Board
2520 Venture Oaks Way #350
Sacramento, CA 95833
916-274-5721 or 916-274-5743 (fax)
<http://www.dir.ca.gov/OSHSB/oshsb.html>

COMMITTEE PROCEDURES — Advisory committees convened by the Division are usually chaired by Division staff.

Generally, the advisory committee is presented with a draft of the proposed standard. Research data, pertinent information and suggestions from committee members as they discuss the proposed standard may result in changes of the wording or provisions of the standard. The committee adopts changes by consensus. It is not unusual for an advisory committee to meet several times to discuss a particular standard before it is finalized and presented to the OSH Standards Board to allow public comment on the proposed standard.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION — all advisory committee meetings are open to the public and any individual or organization may be placed on the advisory committee mailing list.