



Senators Push for Emergency Temporary OSHA Standard on Infectious Disease as the Country Reopens

29 Senators send a letter to Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia

The letter requested a temporary standard and additional interpretations to existing standards and requests including:

- Additional interpretations of Standards to increase enforceable protection
- Comprehensive guidance for the protection of workers
- Employer notification that OSHA will enforce 'key portions' of guidance through the General Duty Clause
- A withdrawal of guidance allowing most employers not to record COVID-19 cases
- The withdrawal of the recent OSHA policy, of not performing workplace inspections of workers' complaints in regards to COVID-19

Secretary Scalia provided a response indicating that there are employers already taking the steps that a temporary standard would require, adding that OSHA guidance is more flexible and allows quicker responsiveness to changes, compared to a new standard. It was also indicated that guidelines would not be considered as a substitute for enforcement.

To read the article in Safety + Health, see the link below:

[Senators to Scalia: Emergency OSHA standard needed before economy can reopen](#)

To read the letter to Secretary Scalia, see the link below:

<https://www.help.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Guidance%20Before%20Reopening%204-29-2020%20-%20FINAL%20cardin.pdf>

OSHA COVID-19 guide for employers: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf>

OSHA's COVID-19 website: <https://www.osha.gov/SLTC/covid-19/>

As always, you can reach out to your safety specialist with any questions.

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