

LABOR CABINET
Department of Workplace Standards
Division of Occupational Safety and Health Compliance
Division of Occupational Safety and Health Education and Training
(Amendment)

803 KAR 2:090. Complaint inspections~~[Unwarranted inspections; complaint]~~.

RELATES TO: KRS 338.121

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: KRS 338.051, 338.061 [~~KRS Chapter 13A~~]

NECESSITY, FUNCTION, AND CONFORMITY: KRS 338.051(3) requires the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to promulgate occupational safety and health administrative regulations and authorizes the chairman to reference federal standards without board approval if necessary to meet federal time requirements. KRS 338.061 authorizes the board to establish, modify, or repeal standards and reference federal standards. [~~Pursuant to the authority granted the Commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards by KRS 338.121, the following procedure has been formulated, which an employee is to follow in filing a complaint alleging a violation of KRS Chapter 338.] This [The function of this] administrative regulation establishes occupational safety and health complaint procedures [~~is to outline this procedure to be followed by the employee in filing his complaint; the administrative regulation also outlines the procedure to be followed by the Commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards if he reviews the complaint and finds an inspection is not warranted]~~].~~

Section 1. Definitions. (1) “Commissioner” is defined by KRS 338.015.

(2) “Employee” is defined by KRS 338.015(2).

(3) “Employer” is defined by KRS 338.015(1).

Section 2. (1) Inspections conducted pursuant KRS 338.121 shall not be limited to matters referred to in the complaint. [~~Complaints by Employees. (1) Any employee or representative of employees who believes that a violation of KRS Chapter 338 exists in any workplace where such employee is employed may request an inspection of such workplace by giving notice of the alleged violation to the Commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards. Any such notice shall be reduced to writing, shall set forth with reasonable particularity the grounds for the notice, and shall be signed by the employee or representative of employees. A copy shall be provided the employer or his agent by the commissioner no later than at the time of inspection, except that, upon the request of the person giving such notice, his name and the names of individual employees referred to therein shall not appear in such copy or on any record published, released, or made available by the Commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards.~~

(2) [~~If upon receipt of such notification the commissioner determines that the complaint meets the requirements set forth in subsection (1) of this section, and that there are reasonable grounds to believe that the alleged violation exists, he shall cause an inspection to be made as soon as practicable, to determine if such alleged violation exists. Inspections under this section shall not be limited to matters referred to in the complaint.~~

(3) [~~Prior to or during any inspection of a workplace, any employee or representative of employees employed in such workplace may notify the Commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards in writing of any violation of KRS Chapter 338 which he has reason to believe exists in such workplace. Any such notice shall comply with the requirements of subsection (1) of this section.]~~

(2) If [~~(4) If, after an inspection based on a complaint,~~] a citation is issued for [~~covering~~] a violation or danger alleged [~~set forth~~] in the complaint, a copy of the citation shall [~~should~~] be sent to the complainant on or about [~~at~~] the same time it is sent to the employer.

Section 3. Informal Review When No Citation Warranted. (1) If [~~(5) If, after an inspection based on a complaint,~~] the commissioner determines that a citation is not warranted with respect to a danger or violation alleged in the complaint, the complainant shall [~~must~~] be informed in writing of such determination and [~~At the same time, the complainant should be notified~~] of her or his right [~~his rights~~] of review of the [~~such~~] determination.

(2) The complaining party may obtain review by submitting a written statement of position to the commissioner [~~Commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards~~].

(6) KRS 338.121(3)(a) provides: "No person shall discharge or in any manner discriminate against any employee because such employee has filed any complaint or instituted or caused to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter or has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding or because of the exercise by such employee on behalf of himself or others of any right afforded by this chapter."

(3) Upon request of the complaining party, the commissioner, at her or his discretion, may hold an informal conference in which the complaining party may present her or his views.

(4) After considering all views presented, the commissioner shall affirm, modify, or reverse her or his determination and furnish the complaining party a written notification of her or his decision and the reasons therefore.

(5) The decision of the commissioner shall be final and not subject to further review.

Section 4. Informal Review When Inspection Not warranted [~~Section 2. Inspection not Warranted; Informal Review~~]. (1) If the commissioner [~~Commissioner of the Department of Workplace Standards~~] determines that an inspection is not warranted [~~because there are no reasonable grounds to believe that a violation or danger exists with respect to a complaint under Section 1 of this administrative regulation~~], she or he shall notify the complaining party in writing of such determination.

(2) The complaining party may obtain review of such determination by submitting a written statement of position to the commissioner.

(3) Upon request of the complaining party, the commissioner, at her or his discretion, may hold an informal conference in which the complaining party may [~~orally~~] present her or his views.

(4) After considering all [~~written and oral~~] views presented, the commissioner shall affirm, modify, or reverse her or his determination and furnish the complaining party a written notification of her or his decision and the reasons therefore.

(5) The decision of the commissioner shall be final and not subject to further review.

(6) [(2) If the commissioner determines that an inspection is not warranted [~~because the requirements of Section 1 of this administrative regulation have not been met, he shall notify the complaining party in writing of such determination.~~] Such determination shall be without prejudice to the filing of a new complaint pursuant KRS 338.121 [~~meeting the requirements of Section 1 of this administrative regulation~~].

LARRY ROBERTS, Secretary

APPROVED BY AGENCY: December 8, 2020

FILED WITH LRC: December 10, 2020 at 11:44 a.m.

PUBLIC HEARING AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD: A public hearing on this administrative regulation shall be held on February 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (ET). The meeting will be conduct-

ed by live videoconference (ZOOM) pursuant to Senate Bill 150, Section 1, subparagraph (8) b (2020) and the continuing state of emergency. Public access to the meeting will be available at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83618567636?pwd=a2FuQnRFeXNNNE5wQjB5QnJDK1ITdz09>, password 224995, or telephone (713) 353-0212, or (888) 822-7517 toll free, conference code 533004. Individuals interested in being heard at this hearing shall notify this agency in writing five (5) working days prior to the hearing of their intent to attend. If no notification of intent to attend the hearing is received by that date, the hearing may be canceled. This hearing is open to the public. Any person who wishes to be heard will be given an opportunity to comment on the proposed administrative regulation. A transcript of the public hearing will not be made unless a written request for a transcript is made. If you do not wish to attend the public hearing, you may submit written comments on the proposed administrative regulation. Written comments shall be accepted through February 28, 2020. Send written notification of intent to be heard at the public hearing or written comments on the proposed administrative regulation to the contact person.

CONTACT PERSON: Robin Maples, OSH Standards Specialist, Kentucky Department of Workplace Standards, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, phone (502) 564-4107, fax (502) 564-4769, email Robin.Maples@ky.gov.

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS AND TIERING STATEMENT

Contact person: Robin Maples

(1) Provide a brief summary of:

(a) What this administrative regulation does: Section 1 of this administrative regulation, effective since December 11, 1974, defines terms used in the regulation. Section 2 establishes occupational safety and health complaint procedures. This amendment also updates this administrative regulation to meet KRS Chapter 13A considerations and was reviewed in accordance with House Bill (HB) 50 2017 from the Regular Session of the 2017 General Assembly.

(b) The necessity of this administrative regulation: This regulation is necessary to meet the requirements established in Section 18 of the OSH Act, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5, which all require Kentucky OSH regulations to be as effective as the federal requirements.

(c) How this administrative regulation conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes: This regulation is necessary to meet the requirements established in Section 18 of the OSH Act, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5, which all require Kentucky OSH regulations to be as effective as the federal requirements. This regulation complies and conforms with the authorizing statutes.

(d) How this administrative regulation currently assists or will assist in the effective administration of the statutes: This administrative regulation promotes worker safety and health throughout Kentucky and ensures the state is as effective as the federal requirement. This regulation is necessary to meet the requirements established in Section 18 of the OSH Act, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5.

(2) If this is an amendment to an existing administrative regulation, provide a brief summary of:

(a) How the amendment will change this existing administrative regulation: Section 1 of this administrative regulation, effective since December 11, 1974, defines terms used in the regulation. Section 2 establishes occupational safety and health complaint procedures. This amendment also updates this administrative regulation to meet KRS Chapter 13A considerations and was reviewed in accordance with HB 50 2017 from the Regular Session of the 2017 General Assembly. Amendments to this regulation are technical and maintain consistency with other

regulations.

(b) The necessity of the amendment to this administrative regulation: The OSH Program is mandated by Section 18 of the OSH Act, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5 to be as effective as OSHA.

(c) How the amendment conforms to the content of the authorizing statutes: KRS 338.051(3) requires the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board to promulgate occupational safety and health administrative regulations. This regulation is necessary to meet the requirements established in Section 18 of the OSH Act, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5, which all require Kentucky OSH regulations to be as effective as the federal requirements. This regulation complies and conforms with the authorizing statutes.

(d) How the amendment will assist in the effective administration of the statutes: This amendment maintains consistency with the federal requirements. This amendment promotes employee health and safety throughout Kentucky and keeps the state program consistent with the federal program.

(3) List the type and number of individuals, businesses, organizations, or state and local governments affected by this administrative regulation: This administrative regulation affects all employers in the Commonwealth covered by KRS Chapter 338.

(4) Provide an analysis of how the entities identified in question (3) will be impacted by either the implementation of this administrative regulation, if new, or by the change, if it is an amendment, including:

(a) List the actions that each of the regulated entities identified in question (3) will have to take to comply with this administrative regulation or amendment: No additional compliance duties are imposed and no immediate action is required.

(b) In complying with this administrative regulation or amendment, how much will it cost each of the entities identified in question (3): There is no additional cost to the OSH Program associated with the amendment to this administrative regulation.

(c) As a result of compliance, what benefits will accrue to the entities identified in question (3): Improved employee protection will result from the promulgation of this amendment, due to the consistency with the federal requirement, providing all a clear understanding of the requirements.

(5) Provide an estimate of how much it will cost to implement this administrative regulation:

(a) Initially: There is no cost to the OSH Program to implement this amendment to the administrative regulation.

(b) On a continuing basis: There is no continuing cost to the OSH Program to implement the amendment to this administrative regulation.

(6) What is the source of the funding to be used for the implementation and enforcement of this administrative regulation: Current state and federal funding.

(7) Provide an assessment of whether an increase in fees or funding will be necessary to implement this administrative regulation, if new or by the change if it is an amendment: There is neither an increase in fees nor an increase in funding necessary to implement this amendment.

(8) State whether or not this administrative regulation establishes any fees or directly or indirectly increases any fees: This administrative regulation neither establishes any fees nor directly or indirectly increases any fees.

(9) TIERING: Is tiering applied? Tiering is not applied. All employers covered by KRS Chapter 338 are treated equally.

FEDERAL MANDATE ANALYSIS COMPARISON

1. Federal statute or regulation constituting the federal mandate. Public Law 91-596, the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, Section 18; 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5

2. State compliance standards. The OSH Program is mandated by Section 18 of the OSH Act, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5 to be as effective as OSHA. Accordingly, in order to maintain the state program as effective as the federal program, Kentucky must adopt the federal requirement or develop an equivalent standard. This regulation is equivalent.

3. Minimum or uniform standards contained in the federal mandate. The Kentucky OSH Program is mandated by Section 18 of the OSH Act, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, and 29 C.F.R. 1953.5 to be at least as effective as the federal requirement. Accordingly, in order to maintain the state program as effective as the federal program, Kentucky must adopt the federal requirement or develop an equivalent standard. This regulation is equivalent.

4. Will this administrative regulation impose stricter requirements, or additional or different responsibilities or requirements, than those required by the federal mandate? No.

5. Justification for the imposition of the stricter standard, or additional or different responsibilities or requirements: This amendment does not impose stricter requirements.

FISCAL NOTE ON STATE OR LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. What units, parts or divisions of state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) will be impacted by this administrative regulation? This administrative regulation affects any unit, part, or division of state or local government covered by KRS Chapter 338.

2. Identify each state or federal statute or federal regulation that requires or authorizes the action taken by the administrative regulation. KRS 338.051, KRS 338.061, Public Law 91-596 84 STAT. 1590, 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(c), 29 C.F.R. 1902.3(d), 29 C.F.R. 1953.1, 29 C.F.R. 1953.5

3. Estimate the effect of this administrative regulation on the expenditures and revenues of a state or local government agency (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for the first full year the administrative regulation is to be in effect. None.

(a) How much revenue will this administrative regulation generate for the state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for the first year? None.

(b) How much revenue will this administrative regulation generate for the state or local government (including cities, counties, fire departments, or school districts) for subsequent years? None.

(c) How much will it cost to administer this program for the first year? There are no costs associated with this amendment.

(d) How much will it cost to administer this program for subsequent years? There are no costs associated with this amendment.

Note: If specific dollar estimates cannot be determined, provide a brief narrative to explain the fiscal impact of the administrative regulation.

Revenues (+/-): Unknown.

Expenditures (+/-): Unknown.

Other explanation: This amendment does not impose any additional requirements or expenditures to the employer.