



VOSH PROGRAM DIRECTIVE: 06-150

Issued: December 12, 1986
Renumbered: August 15, 2005

SUBJECT: Standard Interpretation of 1910.151(b), Medical and First Aid

A. Purpose.

This revised directive is updated to remove outdated references and renumbered to conform to the revised VOSH Program directives' new classification and numbering system (See VOSH Directive 01-001A).

This directive transmits to field personnel an interpretation received from Federal OSHA concerning the meaning of the words "in near proximity" contained in §1910.151(b), Medical and First Aid Standard.

This Program Directive is an internal guideline, not a statutory or regulatory rule, and is intended to provide instructions to VOSH personnel regarding internal operation of the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health Program and is solely for the benefit of the program. This document is not subject to the Virginia Register Act or the Administrative Process Act; it does not have general application and is not being enforced as having the force of law.

B. Scope.

This directive applies VOSH-wide.

C. Action.

Directors and Managers shall ensure that employers comply with the requirements of §1910.151(b), Medical and First Aid Standard, and the Federal OSHA interpretation which was received by VOSH on November 4, 1986 (attached).

D. Cancellation.

VOSH Program Directive 12-150 (December 12, 1986).

E. Background.

(See attached letter dated October 8, 1986, requesting an official standards interpretation of §1910.151(b).)

F. Enforcement Guidelines.

1. Summary of Interpretation.

The interpretation states that the words “in near proximity” contained in §1910.151(b) have been interpreted by case law to generally mean “3 to 4 minutes from a medical facility.”

In the absence of a medical facility within 3 to 4 minutes of an employer’s establishment, §1910.151(b) requires that “a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid.”

C. Ray Davenport
Commissioner

ATTACHMENTS: Federal OSHA Interpretation of §1910.151 (b) Received by VOSH on November 4, 1986.

VOSH Request for Interpretation of 1910.151 (b) Dated October 8, 1986.

DISTRIBUTION: Commissioner of Labor and Industry
Assistant Commissioner - Programs
Directors and Managers
VOSH Compliance Staff
Cooperative Programs Staff
Legal Support Staff
OSHA Regional Administrator, Region III
OSHA Area Office, Norfolk

U.S. Department of Labor

Occupational Safety and Health Administration
3535 Market Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19104



Reply to the Attention of: Technical Support

OCT 20 1986



Honorable Carol Amato
Commissioner
Department of Labor and Industry
Commonwealth of Virginia
205 North Fourth Street
P. O. Box 12064
Richmond, Virginia 23241

Attention: Mr. Jay W. Withrow
Technical Services Director

Dear Ms. Amato:

This is in response to the letter dated October 8, 1986 which requests an interpretation of 29 CFR 1910.151(b). The term "in near proximity" has been interpreted by case law to generally mean 3 to 4 minutes from a medical facility. Some accidents resulting in severe bleeding or respiratory stoppage can be fatal beyond that time.

If arrangements cannot be made to provide emergency medical services within the time frame as discussed above, then a trained person with a current certificate should be available for each shift of the operation. First aid courses are available through local American Red Cross Chapters, American Petroleum Institute, and Mine Enforcement and Safety Administration First Aid Programs.

Thank you for your interest in occupational safety and health.

Sincerely yours,

for Walter E. Wilson Jr.
LINDA R. ANKU
Regional Administrator



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Labor and Industry
205 North Fourth Street
P. O. Box 12084
Richmond, Virginia 23241

October 8, 1986

Mrs. Linda R. Anku
Regional Administrator
U. S. Department of Labor - OSHA
3535 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19104

Dear Mrs. Anku:

By this letter I would like to request an official standards interpretation of 29 CFR 1910.151(b) of the standards for General Industry. 1910.151(b) states:

(b) In the absence of an infirmary, clinic, or hospital in near proximity to the workplace which is used for the treatment of all injured employees, a person or persons shall be adequately trained to render first aid. First aid supplies approved by the consulting physician shall be readily available.

My request concerns the meaning of the words "in near proximity". Are there any acceptable maximum distances and response times which VOSH could use as guidance in enforcement activities? A reasonable and quantifiable interpretation of 1910.151(b) has become necessary because of the increased awareness of chemical hazards in the workplace since the adoption of the Hazard Communication Standard.

Thank you for your time and cooperation. If any further clarification of the interpretation request is needed, please contact Dr. Clarence Wheeling, Occupational Health Enforcement Director, at (804) 786-0574.

Sincerely,

Jay W. Withrow
VOSH Technical Services Director

(804) 786-8011

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cc: C. Wheeling