



The New York State Public Employee Safety and Health Act of 1980 provides job safety and health protection for workers through the promotion of safe and healthful working conditions throughout the State. Requirements of the Act include the following:

Employers

Employers must provide employees with a workplace that is:

- free from recognized hazards,
- in compliance with the safety and health standards that apply to the workplace, and
- in compliance with any other regulations issued under the PESH Act by the Commissioner of Labor.

Employees

Employees must comply with all safety and health standards that apply to their actions on the job. Employees must also comply with any regulations issued under the PESH Act that apply to their job.

ENFORCEMENT

The New York State Department of Labor administers and enforces the PESH Act. The Commissioner of Labor issues safety and health standards. The Department's Division of Safety and Health (DOSH) has Inspectors and Hygienists who inspect workplaces to make sure they are following the PESH Act.

Inspection

When DOSH staff inspect a workplace, a representative of the employer and a representative approved by the employees must be allowed to help with the inspection. When there is no employee-approved representative, DOSH staff must speak with a fair number of employees about the safety and health conditions in the workplace.

Order to Comply

If the Department believes an employer has violated the PESH Act, we will issue an order to comply notice to the employer. The order will list dates by which each violation must be fixed. If violations are not fixed by those dates, the employer may be fined. The order to comply must be posted at or near the place of violation, where it can be easily seen. This is to warn employees that a danger may exist.

Complaint

Any interested person may file a complaint if they believe there are unsafe or unhealthful conditions in a public workplace. This includes:

- An employee
- A representative of an employee
- Groups of employees
- A representative of a group of employees

Make this complaint in writing to the nearest DOSH office or by email to: Ask.SHNYPESH@labor.ny.gov

On request, DOSH will not release the names of any employees who file a complaint. The Department of Labor will evaluate each complaint. The Department will notify the person who made the complaint of the results of the investigation.

These complaints may also be made to the United States Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration online at: www.osha.gov.