

The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (OSHSB)

Overview

Simone Sumeshwar
Senior Safety Engineer



State of California
Department of
Industrial Relations



State of California
Gavin Newsom
Governor

OSHSB Mission

The mission of the Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board is to promote, adopt and maintain reasonable and enforceable standards that will ensure a safe and healthful workplace for California workers.



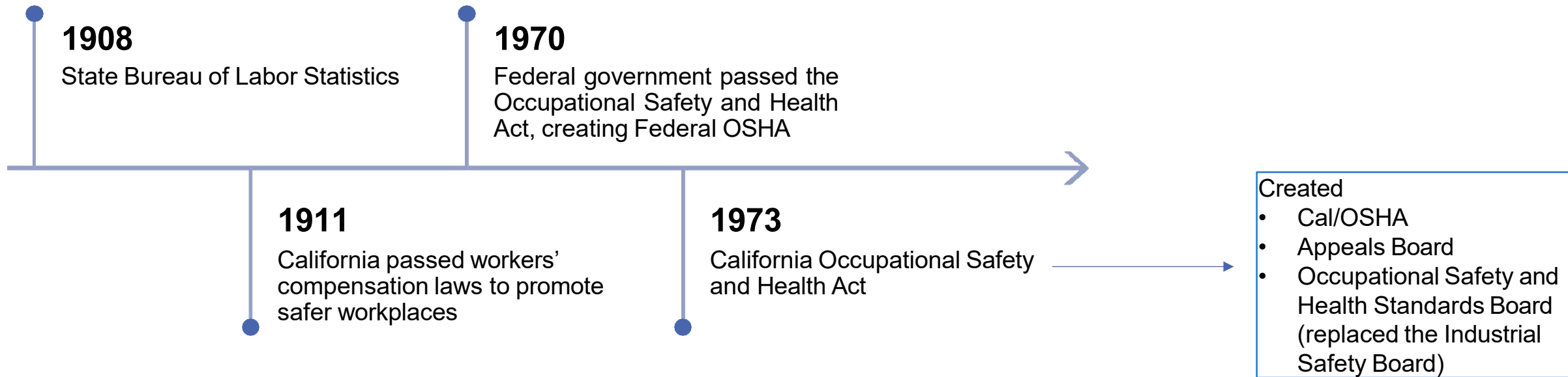
State of California
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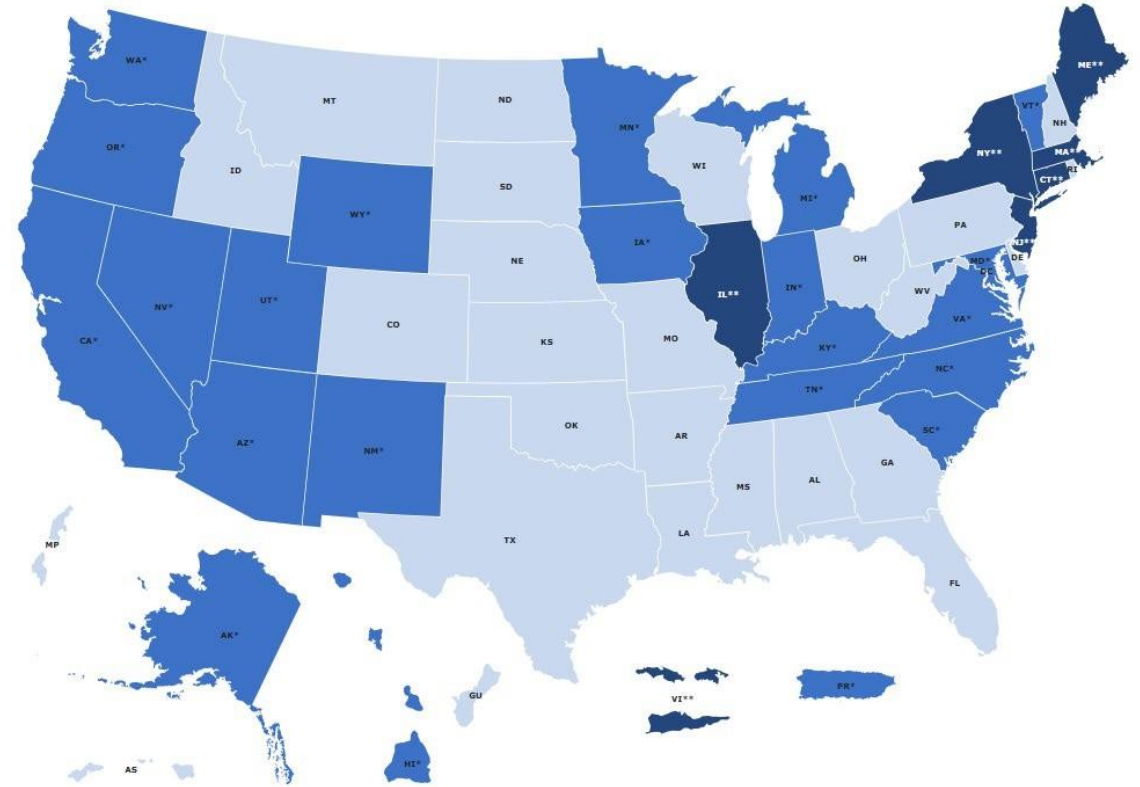
History of OSHSB

- Is the only agency in the state authorized to adopt, amend or repeal occupational safety and health standards or orders (Labor Code 142.3).



Federal OSHA & OSHSB

- Federal OSHA authorizes California's state-plan (1 of 29 state plans)
- Occupational safety and health regulations under title 8 must be at least as effective as (ALAE) as the Federal regulations.
- OSHSB maintains standards for certain areas not covered or enforced by federal standards or enforcement.



What Does OSHSB Do?

Yes

- Rulemaking
- Petitions
- Permanent variances

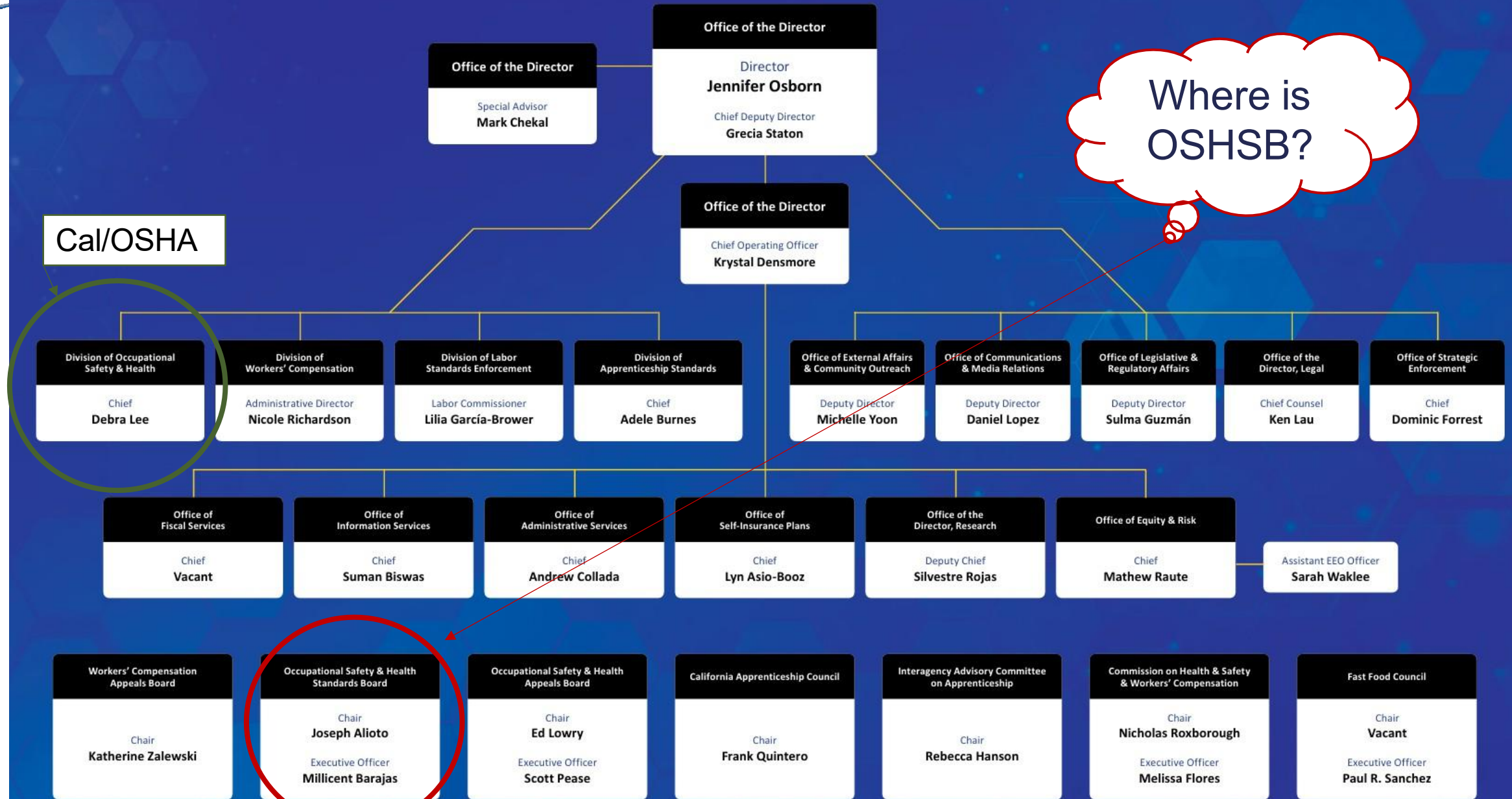
No

- Enforcement
- Consultative services
- Interpretations
- Levy fines
- Temporary variances
- Accident investigations
- Inspections
- Permits

Department of Industrial Relations | Org Chart

Department of Industrial Relations reports to California Labor and Workforce Development Agency Secretary Stewart Knox who in turn reports to Governor Gavin Newsom.

Updated 8/27/26



Standards Development

- **Cal/OSHA Research and Standards Unit**
 - Health Regulations
- **Occupational Health Safety Standards Board (OSHSB) Staff**
 - Safety Regulations



OSHSB Governor Appointed Members



Joseph M. Alioto Jr.

Board Chair



Chris Laszcz-Davis
Management
Representative



Derek Urwin
Occupational Safety
Representative



David Harrison
Labor Representative



Nola J. Kennedy
Occupational Health
Representative



Cassie Hilaski
Management
Representative



Joshua Lepper
Labor Representative

OSHSB Staff (Board Staff)



Millicent Robinette
Executive Officer

Engineering Unit

Legal Unit

Regulations Unit

Administrative Services
Unit



OSHSB Staff- Roles and Responsibilities



Engineering Unit



Administrative Services
Unit



Legal Unit



Regulations Unit



Rule Making Process

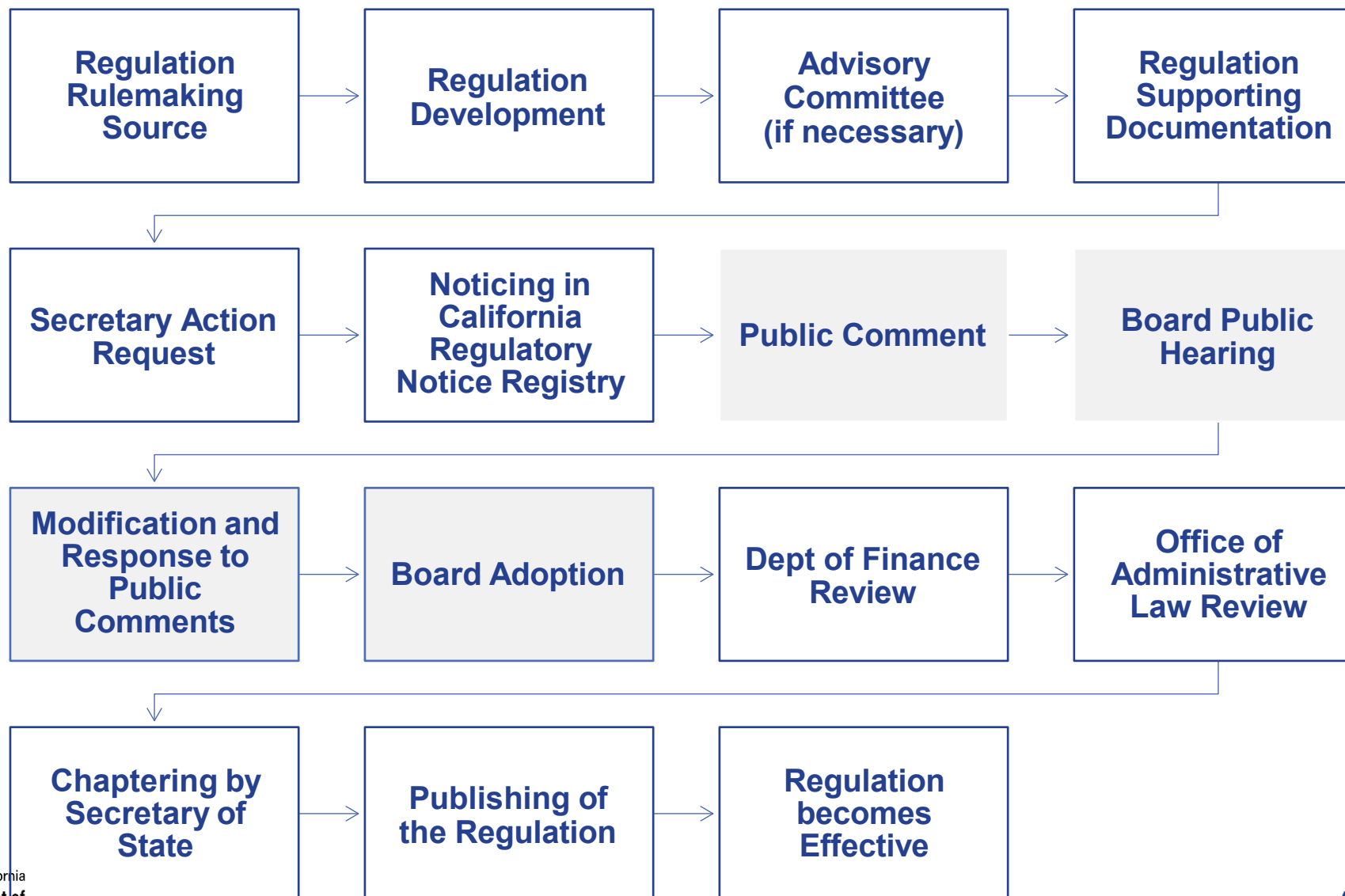
How Ideas Become Regulations



Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board Rulemaking Process Flowchart



oal.ca.gov



Colored blocks =
One Year Statutory
Deadline

Rulemaking Process Overview

1. Rulemaking Source

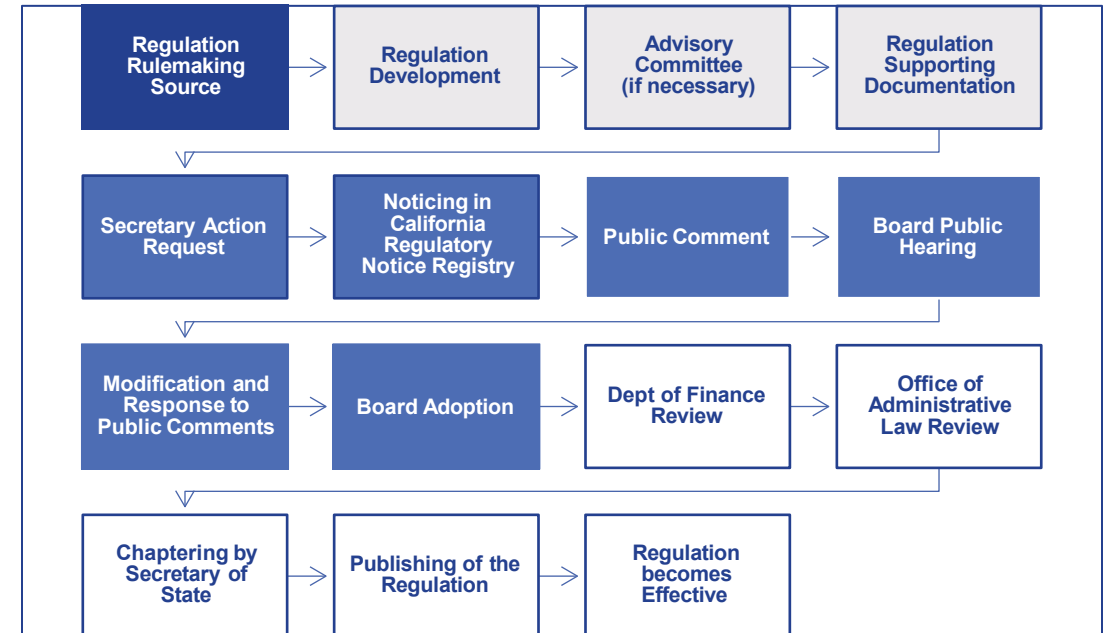
2. Pre-Rulemaking

- Advisory Committees (optional)
- Consensus Standards
- Other Rulemakings

3. Rulemaking

- Notice & 45-days Public Comment
- Public Hearing
- Additional 15-day comments (if needed)
- Adoption (within 1 year of notice)

4. Department of Finance review, Office of Administrative Law (OAL) Approval & Secretary of State (SOS) Chaptering



Rulemaking Sources: How Process Gets Started

- General Public
 - Petition Decisions
 - Variance Decisions
- Federal Changes
- California Legislation (Statutory Changes)
- Appeals Board Decisions
- Standards Board and Cal/OSHA Requests



Cal/OSHA or OSHSB- Who takes on the project?

Health Regulations

- Cal/OSHA Research and Standards staff develop proposals
 - Examples include:
 - Aerosol Transmissible Diseases
 - Crystalline Silica
 - Heat Illness
 - Lead Exposure
 - Trichloroethylene (TCE)

Safety Regulations

- OSHSB staff develop proposals
 - Examples include:
 - Construction Personnel Elevators
 - Firefighter PPE
 - Residential Fall Protection
 - Snow Avalanche Blasting
 - Walking Working Surfaces

Advisory Committees

May be used by Board staff in the development of proposed regulatory text (Express Terms).

- Participants may include subject matter experts (Stakeholders) from labor, management, academia, Cal/OSHA, etc.
- Discuss necessity, enforceability, cost impact, etc.
- The goal is to achieve consensus, but it is not required



Board Staff

2026 Advisory Committee Meetings

8 CCR Section or Legislation	Subject	Rulemaking Source	Meeting Dates & Locations	Staff Contact
CSO Sections 1604-1604.30	Construction Passenger Elevator, Article 14	Petition 589	April 1 - 2, 2026 (Virtual)	Mike Nelmidia (916) 274-5724
CSO, Article 24	Site Specific Fall Protection Plans	Petition 607	May 13, 2026 (Virtual)	Simone Sumeshwar (916) 621-1415
GISO, Section 3324	Horizontal Sliding Gates	Petition 605	July 25, 2026 (In Person)	Marjon Juybari (916) 274-5729



Board Staff

2026 Advisory Committee Meetings

For a complete list of current projects visit:
www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/advisorycommittees.html



www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/advisorycommittees.html



Rulemaking Package

Documentation Required for Rulemaking Proposals

Stage I: Must be provided to the public and to the Board at least 45-days before the public hearing can be held.

- Express Terms
- Notice of Proposed Action (NOPA)
- Initial Statement of Reasons (ISOR)
- Economic and Fiscal Impact (STD. 399)

Stage II: Required to be part of the final rulemaking package before the Board can vote to adopt the proposal.

- Final Statement of Reasons (FSOR)
- Adopted Express Terms
- Updated Informative Digest



Rulemaking Continued

Public Comment

Rule making Proposals

- Notice & 45-days Public Comment
- Public Hearing
- Additional 15-day comments
 - (if needed)



OSHSB (Votes to Adopt)

- **Board Staff (Acute Hazards)**
 - Snow Avalanche Blasting
 - Horizontal Sliding & Swinging Gates
 - Brush Chippers
- **Cal/OSHA Public Safety Units**
 - Elevator Unit
 - Pressure Vessel Unit
 - Process Safety Management (PSM)
- **Cal/OSHA (Health Hazards)**
 - Silica
 - Wildfire Smoke
 - Workplace Violence Prevention



Review by Department of Finance

If rulemaking approved by Board,
rulemaking package goes to the
Department of Finance for Review



Review by the Office of Administrative Law

If rulemaking approved by Board, filing of rulemaking package with Office of Administrative Law (OAL)

- OAL reviews package for Administrative Procedure Act (APA) compliance
- Up to 30 working days review



Filing with the Secretary of State

If approved by OAL, the rulemaking is filed with Secretary of State (SOS)

- Effective Date
 - SOS filing date (following quarter), or
 - Date specified by OSHSB
- Published in title 8 of the California Code of Regulations



Regulation becomes Law

THOMSON REUTERS

WESTLAW

California Code of Regulations

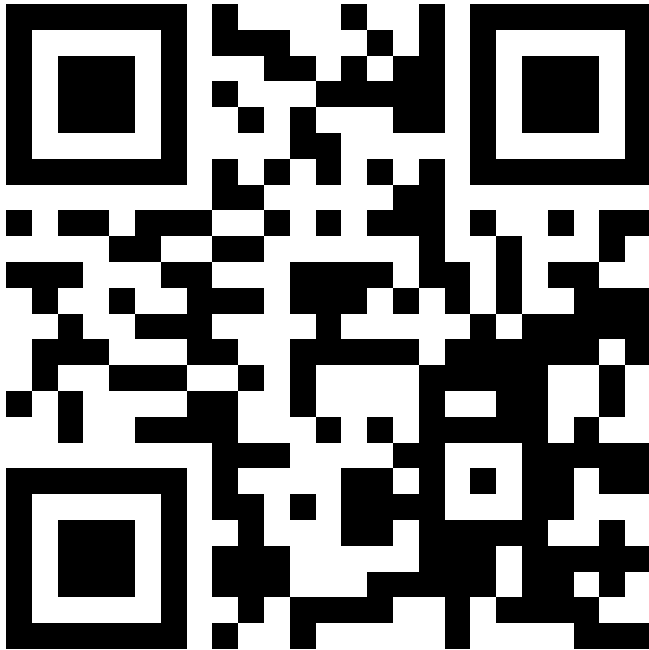
Search California Code of Regulations

How You Can Participate in the Rulemaking Process

- Attend or view OSHSB meetings (monthly, around the state)
- Submit comments regarding rulemaking proposals
- Submit petitions
- Join advisory committees
- Reach out to OSHSB staff to discuss current projects
- Monitor the OSHSB website: www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb
- Join our mailing list: www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/email-list-request-form.html

Navigating Website

- [Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board \(OSHSB\) - Home](https://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb)



www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb

Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board (OSHSB)

The mission of the Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board is to promote, adopt, and maintain reasonable and enforceable standards that will ensure a safe and healthful workplace for California workers.

The Occupational Safety & Health Standards Board, a seven-member body appointed by the Governor, is the standards-setting agency within the Cal/OSHA program. The Standards Board's objective is to adopt reasonable and enforceable standards at least as effective as federal standards. The Standards Board also has the responsibility to grant or deny applications for variances from adopted standards and respond to petitions for new or revised standards. The part-time, independent board holds monthly meetings throughout California.

Standards Board Updates

- [September 17, 2026 Board Meeting Agenda](#)
- [September 17, 2026 Board Meeting Notice](#)
- [OSHSB Roundtable - Request for Stakeholder Input](#) - Save the date October 6th for Northern California and October 20th for Southern California

Board Meetings

- [Board Meeting Schedule, Notice of Proposals, and Agendas](#)
- [Video Stream Monthly Board Meetings](#) [in English and Spanish](#)
- [Making Presentations Before the Board](#)

Next Standards Board Meeting: [Join the Public Comment Queue](#)

The Board supports comments on occupational safety and health matters not included on the monthly agenda. If you have a comment and cannot attend during the non-agenda comment period, OSHSB staff will do their best to read emailed comments into the record. Please send your non-agenda comment to OSHSB_NACComments@dir.ca.gov by 5:00 p.m. the night prior to the meeting. Your comment should be clear, concise, and 500 words or less.

Advisory Meetings

- [Advisory Committee Meetings](#)

Standards

- [Approved](#)
- [Proposed](#)
- [Emergency](#)
- [Terminated](#)

Variances

- [Permanent Variance Applications/Process](#)
- [Proposed Variance Decisions](#)

Petitions

- [Petitions](#)

[Search the OSHSB subsite](#) »

Quick Links

Popular Pages

- [Standards Board Public Hearings](#)
- [Rulemaking proposals scheduled for hearing or adoption](#)
- [Recently Approved Standards](#)
- [The Petition Process](#)
- [The Variance Process](#)

Public Records Request

- [Search for Regulations](#)
- [Search for Cal/OSHA Regulations](#)
- [Westlaw Title 8 Regulation Search](#)

Advisory Meetings

- [Upcoming Advisory Committees](#)
- [Recent Cal/OSHA Advisory Committees](#)

About

- [About Us](#)
- [Learn about Cal/OSHA Enforcement](#)
- [Contact the Standards Board](#)

Navigating Website

Most recent updates

Standards Board Updates

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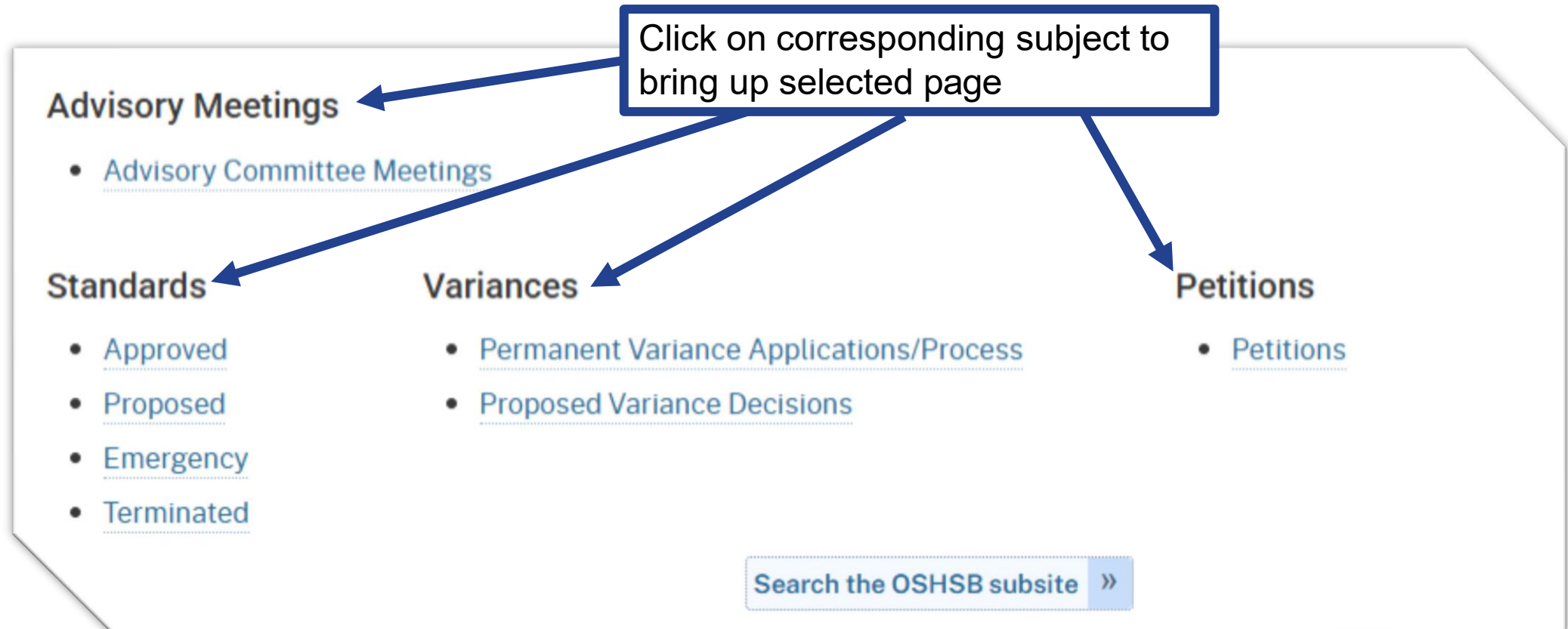
Board Meeting
Information and
public commenting
page

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Navigating Website



STAKEHOLDERS' ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

- NEW: STAKEHOLDERS' ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
 - We welcome open feedback on our rulemaking, petition, variance, and communication practices
 - Tuesday, October 20, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
 - Los Angeles- Ronald Reagan State Building
- To RSVP, please contact Ginger McElveen.
 - Ginger McElveen, Strategic Partner & Relations Manager
 - Email: gmcelveen@dir.ca.gov
 - Work Cell: (916) 241-7459 | Main Office: (916) 274-5721

Recently Approved Rulemakings

2024-Present

OSHSB Recently Approved Rulemaking Projects

8 CCR Sections	Subject	Rulemaking Source	Brief Description
Section 1514	Proper Fit of Personal Protective Equipment (Horcher)	Federal OSHA	Requires all personal protective equipment to be selected to ensure that it properly fits affected employees. Effective: August 21, 2025
Sections 1532.1, 5155 and 5198	Lead	Labor Code 6717.5	Revise lead standards of GISO and CSO to be consistent with scientific research and findings. Effective: January 1, 2025.
Section 1635	Cone and Bar Barricade (CBB)	Petition 570	Allow the use of cone and bar barricades to help employees identify floor openings for work related to structural steel erection. Effective: April 1, 2025

OSHSB Recently Approved Rulemaking Projects

8 CCR Sections	Subject	Rulemaking Source	Brief Description
Sections 1671.1, 1716.2, 1730, 1731	Fall Protection in Residential Construction	Fed OSHA Directive	Revise residential construction industry standards to be ALAEA Federal OSHA fall protection trigger height of 6 feet. Effective: July 1, 2025
Sections 1951, 1952, 1953, 1955, 1956, 1960 and 5156	Confined Spaces in Construction (Clean-up)	OSHSB Staff	Revision of standards for confined space operations to incorporate changes made in the Federal regulations and recommendations from an Advisory Committee. Effective: January 1, 2026
Section 3396	Heat Illness Prevention in Indoor Places of Employment	Labor Code 6720	Established standards to reduce employee exposure to dangerous levels of indoor heat at non-exempt workplaces. Effective: July 23, 2024.

OSHSB Recently Approved Rulemaking Projects

8 CCR Sections	Subject	Rulemaking Source	Brief Description
Section 5204	Occupational Exposures to Respirable Crystalline Silica	Petition 597	Adds additional protections to the title 8 silica general industry regulations (section 5204) in response to an outbreak of silicosis in the California artificial stone countertop fabrication industry. Effective: February 5, 2025
Sections 6050-6056	Diving Operations	Fed OSHA	Allow diving operations to more fully reflect Federal OSHA language. Effective: October 1, 2025
CSO section 1630(a)	Construction Passenger Elevators (CPEs)	Cal/OSHA Form 9 & Petition 587	Require that the CPE to have access to the roof and establish a maximum travel distance requirement for employees to access the CPE. Effective: TBD

OSHSB Recently Approved Rulemaking Projects

8 CCR Sections	Subject	Rulemaking Source	Brief Description
CSO section 1512 GISO Section 3400	First Aid	Petition 481	To facilitate employer compliance and improve employee safety by clarifying and modernizing the requirements of sections 1512 and 3400 regarding the first aid needs of employees. Effective: TBD

OSHSB

Current Rulemaking Proposals in Development

OSHSB Rulemaking Proposals in Development

8 CCR Sections	Subject	Rulemaking Source	A/C	Brief Description
GISO various sections	Walking Working Surfaces	Federal OSHA	Yes	Addressing slip, trip, and fall hazards, and add requirements for personal fall protection systems.
GISO sections 3657 & new 3458.2	Date Palm Operations	Petition 565	Yes	Develop new standards pertaining to the cultivation and harvesting of date palm fruit (access, elevating means, fall protection and rescue).
GISO sections 3649, 3650 and 3663	Hydrogen Powered (fuel cell) Lift Trucks (HPLT)	Staff Initiated/ CARB Zero Emission Forklifts	Yes	Updating approval labeling and marking for new fuel cell forklifts and conversions kits of battery electric forklifts to fuel cell forklifts conversions.

OSHSB Rulemaking Proposals in Development

8 CCR Sections	Subject	Rulemaking Source	A/C	Brief Description
GISO sections 3420 & 3424	Guarding of Brush Chippers	Petition 549	Yes	Address various safety issues and presence sensing technologies designed to prevent employee entanglement and contact with the point of operation of hand fed chippers.
GISO sections 5349, 5350 & 5357	Snow Avalanche Blasting	Cal/OSHA Form 9 & Petition 575	Yes	Clarify how far from the ignited hand charge the employee must be prior to tossing the ignited charge, written procedures and training, and consider the use of Remote Avalanche Control Systems (RACS)
GISO 3324	Horizontal Sliding and Swinging Gates	Petition 605	Yes	Addressing various safety issues that have led to injuries and fatalities involving horizontal sliding and swinging gates.

OSHSB Rulemaking Proposals in Development

8 CCR Sections	Subject	Rulemaking Source	A/C	Brief Description
CSO Section 1711	Reinforcing steel (rebar)	Petition 585	No	To allow the internal guying/bracing of reinforcing steel (rebar) assemblies when the system is designed by a qualified person and to clarify prohibition of external guying and bracing of rebar assemblies.
Section 1671.3	Residential Fall Protection	Petition 607	Yes	Establishing a new Fall Protection Plan for interior work in residential framing.
Article 10.1 Sections 3401-3407 and 3410-3411	Fire Fighter PPE	AB 1181	Yes	Updating requirements for California Fire fighter Personal Protective Equipment

Contact OSHSB and Cal/OSHA

Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board

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oshsb@dir.ca.gov

www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb



www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb

Cal/OSHA Research and Standards Unit
Eric Berg, Deputy Chief, Health, (510) 289-7000

Requesting Archived Documents

To request information about archived adopted regulations,
contact the OSHSB Public Records Officer

oshsb-pra@dir.ca.gov



oshsb-pra@dir.ca.gov

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list-request-form.html](http://www.dir.ca.gov/oshsb/email-list-request-form.html)