

MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Part 511. Temporary Labor Camps

What is a Temporary Labor Camp?

A temporary labor camp (TLC) is housing that is provided by an employer for temporary or seasonal workers. Housing that is occupied all year long or by permanent residents is not a TLC.

Are there any MIOSHA regulations that describe requirements for the conditions and establishment of TLCs?

Yes, MIOSHA Occupational Health Standard, [Part 511, Temporary Labor Camps](#). This standard rules regulates 12 main areas in a TLC: site maintenance; shelter; water supply; toilet facilities; laundry; handwashing and bathing facilities; lighting; refuse disposal; kitchen, dining and feeding facilities; insect and rodent control; first aid; and reporting of communicable diseases.

What are the basic rules for maintaining the site of a TLC?

All physical sites used for camps must be located away from areas that are subject to flooding or adjacent to a swamp. The site must be adequately drained. Drainage from the camp must not endanger any water supplies. All sites must be of sufficient size to prevent overcrowding of building structures in the camp.

The principal camp area in which food is prepared and served and where sleeping quarters are located shall be at least 500 feet from any area in which livestock is kept. The grounds and open areas surrounding the shelters shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition free from rubbish, debris, waste paper, garbage, or other refuse.

What are the basic rules for the shelter or buildings?

The shelter must be built so that it provides protection against weather or other hazards. Appropriate beds, cots, or bunks, and suitable storage facilities shall be provided in rooms used for sleeping.

All floors must be made of wood, asphalt, or concrete. The floors must be kept in good repair. Wooden floors must be raised not less than 1 foot above the ground level at all points to prevent dampness and to permit free circulation of air beneath the floor.

All living quarters must be provided with windows and one-half of each window must be built so that it can be opened for ventilation. All exterior openings must be effectively screened. All screen doors must be equipped with self-closing devices.

All heating, cooking, and water-heating equipment shall be installed in accordance with state and local codes. If a camp is used during cold weather, adequate heating equipment shall be provided.

What are the basic rules for supplying water?

An adequate and convenient water supply that is approved by the appropriate health authority must be provided in each camp for drinking, cooking, bathing, and laundry purposes. If water is not piped to the shelter buildings, water outlets must be located throughout the camp so that no shelter is more than 100 feet from a yard hydrant.



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General Industry Safety and Health Division

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What are the basic rules for toilet facilities?

Toilet facilities must be adequate for the capacity of the camp. Toilet rooms must have a window not less than 6 square feet in area opening directly to the outside area or otherwise be adequately ventilated. All outside openings must be screened.

If toilet rooms are shared, such as in multifamily or barracks style housing, separate rooms must be provided for each sex. Each room must be distinctly marked "for men" and "for women" by signs printed in English and in the native language of the persons occupying the camp, or marked with easily understood pictures or symbols.

Each toilet room must be lighted naturally or artificially by a safe type of lighting at all hours of the day and night. An adequate supply of toilet paper must be provided in each toilet facility. All types of toilet facilities must be maintained in a sanitary condition and must be cleaned at least daily.

What are the basic rules for laundry, handwashing, and bathing facilities?

Laundry, handwashing, and bathing facilities must be provided.

Floors shall be of smooth materials and impervious to moisture. Floor drains shall be provided in all shower baths, shower or laundry rooms. An adequate supply of hot and cold running water must be provided for bathing and laundry purposes. Facilities for drying clothes must be provided. All service buildings must be kept clean.

What are the basic rules for lighting?

Where electric service is available, each habitable room must have at least 1 ceiling-type light fixture and at least 1 separate floor- or wall-type convenience outlet. Laundry and toilet rooms and rooms where people congregate must have at least 1 ceiling- or wall-type fixture.

What are the basic rules for refuse disposal and insect or rodent control?

Fly-tight, rodent-tight, cleanable or single service containers must be provided for the storage of garbage. There must be at least 1 container for each family shelter which must be located within 100 feet of each shelter on a wooden, metal, or concrete stand. Garbage containers shall be kept clean and emptied when full but not less than twice a week. Effective measures must be taken to prevent infestation by and harborage of animals, insects, or pests.

What are the basic rules for first aid and reporting of communicable disease?

Adequate first aid facilities approved by a health authority must be kept and made available in every labor camp for the emergency treatment of injured persons. First aid facilities must be in the charge of a person trained to administer first aid and readily accessible for use at all times. The camp superintendent shall report immediately to the local health officer the name and address of any individual in the camp known to have or suspected of having a communicable disease.

Additional Information

The Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (MDARD) has additional regulations covering TLCs housing five or more migrant agricultural workers. For further information you can contact MDARD at (517) 335-6545 or www.michigan.gov/mda.