

SOUTH CAROLINA OSHA TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARING

The South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation will hold a public hearing October 29, 2009. Interested persons will be given the opportunity to appear and present views about proposed OSHA rules. The hearing will begin at 10:00 AM on the 2nd floor, Room 202-02, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, S.C.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider new and revised standards for adoption by South Carolina OSHA. These standards are necessary to comply with federal law.

South Carolina Occupational Safety and Health Administration is revising its Acetylene Standard for general industry by updating references to standards published by standards developing organizations i.e., SDO standards. This rulemaking is a continuation of South Carolina OSHA's ongoing effort to update references to SDO standards used throughout its rules.

The Agency also is revising the personal protective equipment (PPE) sections of its general industry and marine terminal standards regarding requirements for eye- and face-protective devices, head protection, and foot protection. South Carolina OSHA is updating the references in its regulations to recognize more recent editions of national consensus standards that PPE must meet if purchased before a specified date. In addition, South Carolina OSHA is amending its provision that requires safety shoes to comply with a specific American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard, and a provision that requires filter lenses and plates in eye- protective equipment to meet a test for transmission of radiant energy specified by another ANSI standard. In amending these paragraphs, South Carolina OSHA will require this safety equipment to comply with the applicable PPE design provisions. These revisions are a continuation of South Carolina OSHA's effort to update or remove references to specific consensus and industry standards located throughout its standards.

Persons desiring to speak at the hearing shall file with the Director of LLR a notice of intention to appear and the approximate amount of time required for her/his presentation on the particular matter no later than October 19, 2009. Any person who wishes to express her/his views, but is unable or does not desire to appear and testify at the hearing, should submit those views in writing by October 19, 2009 to Adrienne Riggins Youmans, Director of South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation.

As with any new standard adopted by federal OSHA, South Carolina, which administers its own state plan, has six months in which to adopt the federal standard or one as effective as the federal one.