



# Trade Release

U.S. Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
Office of Communications  
Washington, D.C.  
[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

For Immediate Release  
Oct. 27, 2010  
Contact: Office of Communications  
Phone: 202-693-1999

## OSHA aims to improve worker training program

WASHINGTON – OSHA recently revised its [policy for all Outreach Training Programs](http://63.234.227.130/dte/outreach/construction_generalindustry/guidelines.html) ([http://63.234.227.130/dte/outreach/construction\\_generalindustry/guidelines.html](http://63.234.227.130/dte/outreach/construction_generalindustry/guidelines.html)) to address the number of hours each day a student may spend in OSHA 10- and 30-hour classes. OSHA revised the length of daily classroom instruction to prevent workers from being saturated with so much information that they may miss content that could prevent injuries, illnesses and death.

Revised program policy now requires OSHA trainers to limit worker training classes to a maximum of 7½ hours per day. Before OSHA made this change, there were no limitations on how long these classes could last each day. With 10 hours of training, along with necessary breaks and lunch, students could sit in classes for up to 13 hours a day. OSHA became concerned that long, mentally-fatiguing class days might cause students to miss essential safety and health training.

Another concern was that, in some cases, one- and three-day training classes were not meeting 10- and 30-hour program time requirements. This concern became evident after OSHA conducted random records audits and unannounced monitoring visits.

To address these issues, the agency now requires OSHA outreach trainers to conduct 10-hour courses over a minimum of two days and 30-hour courses over at least four days. The agency also set up an [outreach fraud hotline](http://63.234.227.130/dte/outreach/construction_generalindustry/watchlist.html) ([http://63.234.227.130/dte/outreach/construction\\_generalindustry/watchlist.html](http://63.234.227.130/dte/outreach/construction_generalindustry/watchlist.html)) at 847-725-7810 to which the public can call to file complaints about program fraud and abuse.

“Limiting daily class hours will help ensure that workers receive and retain quality safety training,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA David Michaels.

This policy change is effective immediately and will be reflected in the next revision of the Outreach Training Program Guidelines. OSHA will not recognize training classes that exceed 7½ hours per day or do not meet all program content requirements. In such cases trainers will not receive completion cards to distribute to students. Trainers may, however, submit written requests for exceptions to limiting training days to 7½ hours based on extenuating circumstances.

The Outreach Training Program, a voluntary participation information resource, is part of OSHA’s Directorate of Training and Education, comprises a national network of more than 17,000 independent, trainers who teach workers and employers about OSHA, workers’ rights and how to identify, avoid and prevent workplace hazards. There are 10- and 30-hour outreach classes for construction, general industry and maritime and 16-hour classes for disaster site workers. Students who successfully complete classes receive completion cards.

Under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, employers are responsible for providing safe and healthful workplaces for their employees. OSHA’s role is to assure these conditions for America’s working men and women by setting and enforcing standards, and providing training, education and assistance. For more information, visit <http://www.osha.gov>. ###

---

U.S. Labor Department news releases are accessible on the Internet at [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov). The information in this release will be made available in alternative format upon request (large print, Braille, audiotape or disc) from the Central Office for Assistive Services and Technology. Please specify which news release when placing your request. Call 202-693-7828 or TTY 202-693-7755.

Filename: Training Program.doc  
Directory: C:\Documents and Settings\Daniel Arrieta\Local Settings\Temporary  
Internet Files\Content.IE5\6IYE2902  
Template: C:\Documents and Settings\Daniel Arrieta\Application  
Data\Microsoft\Templates\Normal.dot  
Title: Statement by Labor Secretary Elaine L  
Subject:  
Author: OSHA-USER  
Keywords:  
Comments:  
Creation Date: 9/17/2010 10:28 AM  
Change Number: 1  
Last Saved On: 10/27/2010 2:22 PM  
Last Saved By: Kimberly M. Tucker  
Total Editing Time: 0 Minutes  
Last Printed On: 10/27/2010 3:45 PM  
As of Last Complete Printing  
Number of Pages: 1  
Number of Words: 1,938 (approx.)  
Number of Characters: 11,047 (approx.)