

Whitlock Enterprises

I am writing to express my strong concerns regarding the newly proposed rule to lower the heat index. In our region, both ourselves and our workers are accustomed to dealing with higher temperatures than most other areas.

The proposed requirement for employees to drink 8 oz of water every 15 minutes seems excessively strict. Implementing this would likely lead to increased restroom breaks and a decrease in overall productivity. This Will not work and such frequent breaks would create significant operational challenges and inevitably drive project costs higher due to reduced work output. It's important to remember that our work is performed outdoors, where the effectiveness of ducted air conditioning and fans is limited compared to controlled indoor environments. This aspect of the proposal appears to be an overreach.

Furthermore, I believe that incorporating these standards will inadvertently encourage more unlicensed contractors to operate illegally and without adhering to proper codes. Our region already faces a considerable problem with substandard work performed by unlicensed individuals. This new rule could exacerbate the issue, as some homeowners and business owners, unable to afford compliant work at potentially higher prices, might opt for cheaper, unregulated services. Consequently, licensed contractors who invest in proper training, insurance, and adherence to regulations will face unfair competition and potential negative consequences.

Ultimately, while I understand the intent behind the proposal, I believe this particular approach is misguided and will create more problems than it solves. Doing the right thing involves practical and realistic solutions, and I do not think this proposal achieves that goal.

Sincerely,
Greg