

Lawrence Pliler

I've worked in heavy civil and highway construction for 30 years. The only way working in the elements becomes a problem for people is when they don't listen to the safety talks and don't take care of themselves and their coworkers. This regulation will do absolutely nothing to solve any problem with working in the heat of summer. All this regulation will do is give the lazy an excuse to not work and make it impossible for foremen to reprimand these individuals.

The people doing this work know how to take care of themselves. They don't need mandates from some bureaucrat in an airconditioned office to tell them when to take a break. Furthermore, this is 2025 not 1925. Any contractor abusing employees in this era find themselves out of business very quick. It is very hard to find people willing to work construction and those that do can find good paying work anywhere in the state. Not a single one would put up with an employer pushing unsafe working practices.

Ask the NMDOT Construction Engineer how much more time will be added to highway contracts to comply with crews getting a quarter of the production in a day. Or better yet, ask the crew laying 300° asphalt on a 100°+ day how they deal with the heat. We can't lay asphalt on cold days; the asphalt sets up too quick work it properly.