

Agricultural Labor Housing RAC

July 26, 2023 / 2 pm - 4pm
Meeting held via Zoom

1. Opening/welcome – Sarah Rew

- The RAC brought up questions about the \$5 million grant which Oregon OSHA will pass along to ODA. No other updates for now.

2. Attendees:

Adam McCarthy, Ann Billette, Barbra Anderson, Cara Fischer, Carlton Davidson, Dane, Daniel Hough, Erin Roby, Ira Cuello Martinez, Jason, Jaylee, Jenny Dresler, Kate Suisman, Ken Goe, Lauren Kuenzi, Laurie Hofer, Lesley Tamura, Malinda Polk, Manuel Rincon, Maria Venegas, Michael Sterner, Mike Doke, Nargess Shadbeh, Nicole Mann, Shawn Coffelt, Stacey Cooper, Taylor Atkinson, Tim Mahern-Macias, Troy Fischer, Zimmercl, Alba Johnston, Dave McLaughlin, Greig Lowell, Julie Love, Kate Ryan, Renee Stapleton, Sarah Rew, Sherry Marks, Theodore Bunch, Tracy Brown

3. Tentative draft language for review

- The following items were discussed: shower heads, slop sink, toilets, CO alarm, no gas fridge (electric only), burners/cooktops, food storage/food prep area
- Considerable conversation was held about the cost to alter water fixtures, and the time constraints and feasibility of such issues (permits, DEQ, wells, drain fields, etc.). Many requested safety/health justification to increase the number of water related fixtures.
- Worker advocates expressed concern that occupants were waiting in line for showers
- Many requested a clarification of what “significantly remodeled” means
- Some requested that “slop sink” be clarified (utility sink?), including clarification of when they are required
- Some requested that if the number of toilets increases, that portables remain allowed
- Some requested Oregon OSHA consider different rules for different types of housing (difference between housing all male occupants for one week vs. housing a family for 10 months)
- The group agreed for the need for CO alarms when there is a source (remember that cars parked near the housing could potentially be a source). Consider “when there is a CO source in or adjacent to the housing”.
- The RAC generally agrees with lowering the required fridge temperature, and there was no pushback to banning gas fridges (with the exception of some who may use them in RVs, or in areas where electricity isn’t available).
- Some conversation centered around outdoor grilling/BBQs, and how many occupants that would serve

- The RAC requested clarification on what “sufficient food storage and prep area” meant (how many linear feet?). Some stated that tables should not be considered prep areas as people need to eat there.

4. Items for further discussion

- Occupant to shower ratio, sink to toilet ratio, square footage per occupant increase, cooling areas for all occupants, separate laundry designated for work clothes
- The RAC further discussed the difficulties surrounding water fixtures (see above), as well as the cost of a square footage increase. Some asked if the rules would be retroactive or only apply to new housing. A suggestion was received to increase square footage to 113 per occupant in studios, and 100 per occupant in other housing.
- Some concern was expressed regarding a separate laundry for work clothes (how to enforce this) as well as enforcing safe practices (rinsing machine between loads).

5. **Adjournment:** The meeting ended at approximately 4 PM

6. **Next meeting:** August 30, 2023 10 AM – 12 PM