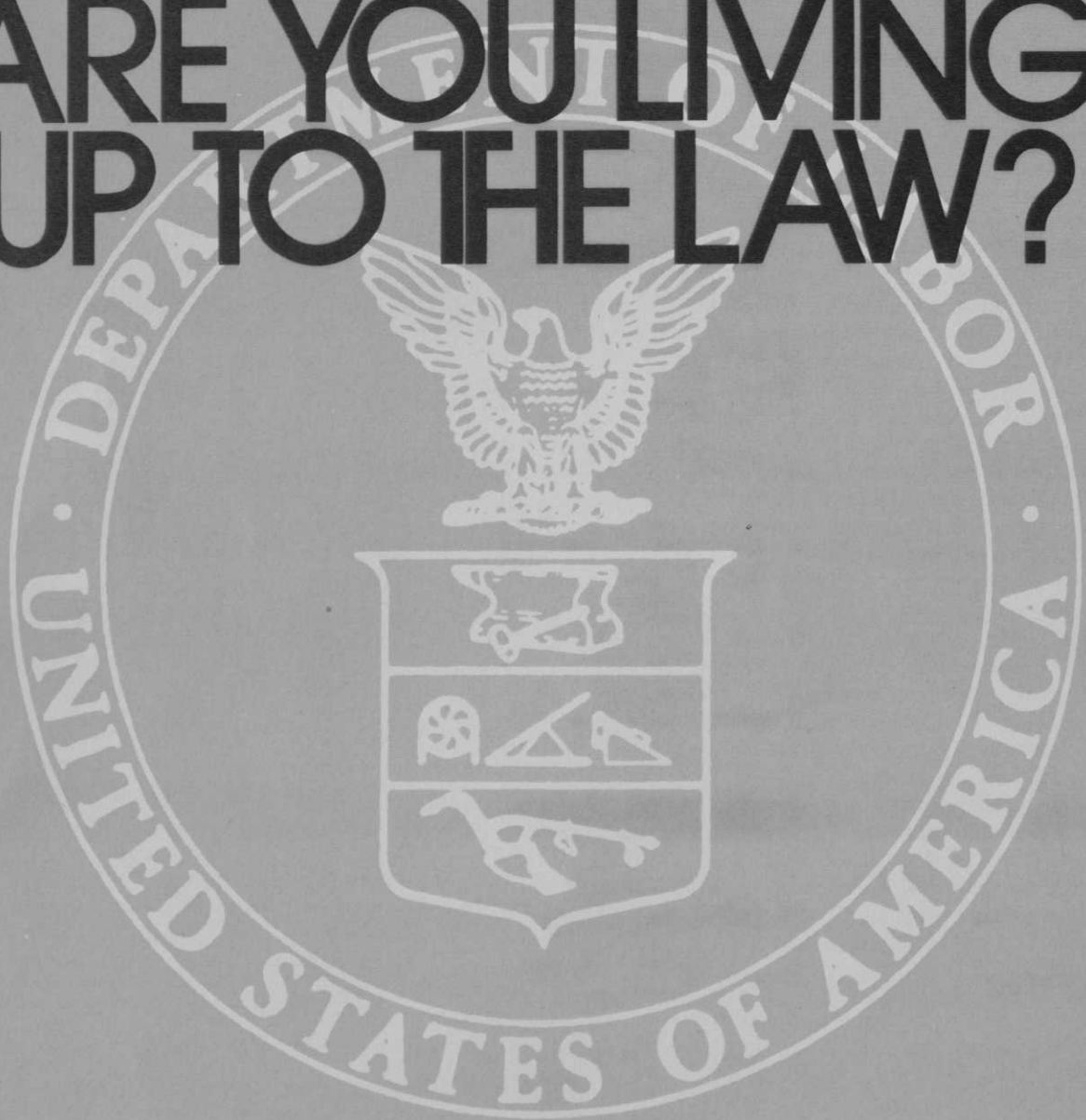


**SAFETY & HEALTH ACT:
ARE YOU LIVING
UP TO THE LAW?**



Although not specifically cited, the golf course definitely is subject to the requirements of the law. Each course administrator, then, must acquire knowledge of those standards pertinent to his area of responsibility

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The Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) standards are designed to provide a safe working place for every man, woman and child in the United States. (See *GOLFDOM*, July, p. 24, which discusses the standards on a broad scope.) This is a high goal, and one that places a great burden on the employer.

Nowhere is this burden more obvious than on the golf course. Because golf courses are not mentioned specifically in the OSHA standards, it is imperative that the superintendent gain a thorough working knowledge of these standards, which, by extension, will apply to his particular work area.

Example: As noted in last month's article, an OSHA poster must be displayed at every workplace to which employees report. This means that if the golf course maintenance crew reports to the maintenance building, then the poster must be displayed there, even though it is already posted at the clubhouse.

More specifically, many standards covering a wide variety of equipment, and procedures will apply directly to the golf course as a user of that equipment. These range from possible air contaminants to portable electrical equipment, lawn mowers and drinking water. The list

is long (the National Club Assn. has compiled a 250-page manual of those standards relating to social and recreational clubs), but every superintendent should be familiar with it. Unfortunately, the list is not completed. The OSHA administrator has until next year to add to, or change, existing standards. However, the following areas can be regarded as some of the more important. (The numbers identifying the standards are the Federal CFR indexes used by both the Government and in NCA's manual.)

LAWNMOWERS (1910.241; 1910.243). These must comply with two pages of standards, including specifications that require guard bars or grass catchers over all grass discharge points; safety coverings for all drive mechanisms; caution signs on operating controls; dead man controls on riding mowers, and various specifics covering blade angles and clearance of hand-grips. The importance of the first of these standards is underlined by a recent accident at a midwestern golf course involving a new mower with controls dissimilar to the others on the course, an unprotected grass discharge opening and an operator who tried to clear the opening manually. The result, an accident.

PORTABLE POWER TOOLS (1910.241; 1910.242; 1910.243). These include safety guard specifications for grinders, saws, woodworking tools and drills. Dead man controls for all hand-held tools are now required. This means that those automatic hold-down devices that permit a tool to continue to run after the trigger has been released will have to be removed from all old power tools. (Note: Not all new equipment complies with OSHA standards. So check before you buy.)

ELECTRICAL GROUNDING (1910.314).

All portable electrical equipment operating at more than 90 volts must be grounded through the use of a separate ground wire and a polarized plug and receptical. This may cause problems both in old buildings and with employees who sometimes remove the grounding wires on tools to simplify their operation.

FIRE (1926.150). Within the maintenance buildings, strict regulations apply to the hazard of fire. Basically, each employer is responsible for developing a fire protection program. Portable, rated fire extinguishers must be maintained in properly inspected conditions in conspicuous locations. All automatic systems must meet the design requirements of the National Fire Protection Assn.'s standards. All electrical equipment for light, heat or power must meet the National Electrical Code. All internal combustion engine equipment must be located well away from combustible material. All flammable liquids must be properly marked and in appropriate containers and also located well away from any possible source of fire.

CLEANING SOLVENTS AND PAINT REMOVERS (1915.21). These must be used in a separate area and the user must be protected from possible skin contact and from eye injury by goggles or a face shield.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT. Eyes (1915.81). All protective eye equipment must meet the specifications of the American Standard Safety Code for Head, Eye and Respiratory Protection, Z2.1, (One business was cited for "unsanitary goggles.")

Respiratory (1926.55; 1915.81). Exposure of employees to inhalation or ingestion of materials at a concentration above those specified in the "Threshold Limit Values of Airborne Contaminants for 1970"

continued

OSHA *continued*

shall be avoided. All respiratory equipment must meet the specifications prescribed by the U.S. Bureau of Mines.

Footwear (1910.136). Safety-toe footwear for employees shall meet the requirements and specifications in the American National Standard for Men's Safety-toe Footwear.

Clothing (1926.55). Exposure to skin absorption or contact with any harmful material must be avoided. Proper equipment and clothing must be worn to comply with this standard.

SANITATION. Most sanitation and housekeeping standards come under what might be called "judgment" guidelines. There are some important specifics, however.

Water supply (1910.141). An adequate supply of potable water must be maintained within 200 feet of any location at which employees are regularly engaged in work. The common drinking cup is prohibited. Where water is cooled by ice, the ice cannot come in direct contact with the water. (Jacketed coolers become a must.) Where single service cups are used, a sanitary container for clean cups must be supplied and a receptacle for used cups must be provided.

Toilet facilities (1910.141). Every place of employment must be provided with adequate and separate toilet facilities for each sex. The sewerage disposal system must comply with the requirements of local authorities. A minimum of one facility for up to 10 persons, two for 10 to 24 persons and three for 26 to 74 persons must be supplied. Other regulations deal with the construction and plumbing in such toilet facilities.

FIRST AID (1910.151). In the absence of an infirmary, clinic or hospital near the workplace, a person or persons must be adequately trained

to render first aid. First-aid supplies, approved by the consulting physician, must also be available. Where the eyes or body of any person is exposed to injurious materials (poisons, pesticides) suitable, emergency facilities for quick drenching or flushing of the eyes or body must be provided within the work area.

NOISE (50-204.10). Protection against the effects of noise are provided when the sound within a building or a workplace exceeds a certain specified degree.

MOTOR VEHICLES (1926.601). All motor vehicles operating on an off-highway job site are covered by this regulation. They include the usual highway safety standards, such as two headlights and taillights; service, emergency and parking and braking systems and an audible warning system. All equipment, including windows and windshields, must be in good and unbroken (or uncracked) condition, and must have adequate heating and de-fogging equipment where freezing conditions exist. Seatbelts are a requirement.

SIGNS (1910.176; 1910.144; 1926.200). Wherever low overheads or clearance problems exist, every employer must post appropriate signs. All danger areas and potential hazards must be clearly marked. Additionally, a considerable body of regulations covers the color coding for marking physical hazards, accident prevention signs and tags and directional signs. These identifications are as follows: *red* for fire equipment and exit signs, fire sprinkler piping and hose locations; "danger" signs for flammable liquids and for barricades; all stop signs and electrical switches, all emergency "off" switches on electrical equipment. *Orange* is the basic color for designating dangerous parts of machines or energized equipment. *Yellow* is

the color designating caution and for marking physical hazards that may cause bumping against, stumbling, falling or tripping. *Green* indicates safety and is used to mark the location of first-aid kits and equipment other than fire fighting. *Blue* designates caution and is limited to warnings against starting or using equipment under repair. *Black, white* or combinations of white and black designate traffic or house-keeping markings. The regulations also go into detail on the size requirements and color combinations for danger signs, directional signs and other safety signs.

LADDERS AND STAIRWAYS. About 15 pages of the regulations deal with the use and the construction of ladders and stairways. They cover such things as the type of materials that may be used in ladders, prohibitions against the use of unsafe ladders, the dimensions, number and materials used in railings, safety treads, angle of erection and warning tags for unsafe or dangerous ladders and stairwells.

STORAGE. Where mechanical handling equipment is used, sufficient safe clearances shall be allowed for aisles, at loading docks or through doorways. Storage of materials cannot create a hazard. Bags stored in tiers must be stacked, blocked, interlocked and limited in height, so that they are stable and secure against sliding or collapsing. Clearance signs must be used.

Two hundred additional regulations provide standards for charging batteries, the use of compressed air, construction standards, electrical standards, environmental controls and the use of machinery and earthmoving equipment. They are too extensive to develop in full in a single article in a single edition of this magazine. Future articles will include these regulations bearing more directly on the clubhouse itself. □