



APR 23 2014

Sammy Almashat, M.D., M.P.H.
Researcher
Public Citizen Health Research Group
1600 20th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20009

Dear Dr. Almashat:

Thank you for your letter of February 25, 2014, and for sharing the Public Citizen Health Research Group's comments submitted in support of the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health's (NIOSH) draft document, "Criteria for Recommended Standard: Occupational Exposure to Heat and Hot Environments," 2013.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) agrees that the research data and findings regarding heat stress required revision and supports updating NIOSH's 1986 document. The additional information on research developments relating to the physiological changes that result from heat stress and the new information on physical monitoring and personal protective equipment and clothing, are very useful.

As you are aware, OSHA launched a campaign in the summer of 2011 to prevent heat-related illnesses. The campaign includes outreach, education, and provided resources to raise awareness on preventing illness and death due to working outdoors in hot and humid weather. In the past two years, OSHA distributed approximately 470,600 copies of materials nationwide and developed a heat app for smartphones that has been downloaded over 125,000 times. OSHA has also increased enforcement activities on heat-related cases. Between May 1, 2012 and February 18, 2014, OSHA conducted approximately 266 heat-related inspections and issued approximately 21 violations of the general duty clause of heat-related hazards.

Thank you for sharing with us the latest iteration of the criteria for a recommended heat standard and your concerns regarding workplace heat stress.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DM", written over a faint, illegible background.

David Michaels, PhD, MPH