

APPENDIX M – GUIDELINES FOR DEPARTMENTAL SAFETY COMMITTEES -CCL

The following Guidelines have been mutually agreed upon in accordance with the Agreements between Santa Clara County and Locals 1587, legacy Locals 535 and 715 (currently SEIU Local 521). The County-wide Joint Labor/Management Safety Committee, hereinafter referred to as the County-wide Safety Committee, as established by those Agreements, shall continue to meet in order to implement these Guidelines and to conduct an on-going review of the safety program and Departmental Joint Labor/Management Safety Committees, hereinafter referred to as the Departmental Safety Committee. Revisions or additions to these Guidelines may be made upon mutual agreement of the Union and Management representatives to the County-wide Committee.

GUIDELINES

1. **Departmental Safety Officer**
Each department head shall designate a Departmental Safety Officer, with concurrence of the County Director of Personnel.
2. **Safety Stewards**
The Unions shall designate Safety Stewards and alternates. There shall be a Safety Steward available to each worker. The number and distribution shall be such that a Steward be available to each work area or place. Safety Stewards may also be regular Stewards.
3. **Departmental Safety Committee**
A Departmental Safety Committee shall be established in each County Department, which shall include Departmental Safety Officers and Safety Stewards. The Unions and the department shall mutually agree on the number of representatives to the Departmental Safety Committee. Composition of the Committee shall be subject to review and approval of the County-wide Safety Committee.
4. **Employee Representatives**
In the event that no Union represents workers in a given work place, employee representatives shall be elected by democratic vote of non-supervisory personnel.
5. **Departmental Safety Committee Structure**
The structure of the Departmental Safety Committees and the frequency of meeting shall be determined by mutual agreement within each Departmental Committee. For example, in a small department a formal committee structure may not be necessary. Also, in a large, complex department, a subcommittee structure may be appropriate.
6. **Departmental Safety Officer Responsibilities**
The Departmental Safety Officer shall ensure safe working conditions, provide and enforce adequate safety procedures, and take any steps necessary to provide and maintain a safe working environment within his/her department. The Departmental Safety Officer must be familiar with the operation of the department and informed

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of day-to-day developments which may affect safety of working conditions. The Departmental Safety Officer shall be responsible for implementation and enforcement of Guidelines established by the County-wide Safety Committee.

7. **Release Time**

Safety Stewards shall receive paid release time from regular duties for performance of their duties as Safety Stewards. Examples of reasons for such release time are:

- a) Scheduled Safety Committee meetings within the department.
- b) Meetings with Management on specific health or safety problems.
- c) Scheduled Safety Training sessions.
- d) Accident or Hazard Report investigation and correction. Reasonable release time for investigation and correction shall be allowed.

Time off for representation should not unduly interfere with the performance of the Safety Steward's other duties as a worker or with the work flow requirements of the department.

8. **Safety Inspections**

Safety inspections shall be conducted of every work place as necessary by the first-line supervisor with a Safety Steward, when possible. A monthly inspection report shall be made and filed with the Departmental Safety Officer.

9. **Hazard Report, Action, Appeals Process**

- a) Management shall make available to workers in all work locations the standard County Hazard Report forms which may be filed by any worker with the responsible member of supervision. The worker should retain a copy.
- b) Supervisor shall transfer information from Hazard Report forms to Hazard Action forms and process as follows:
 1. When corrective action is necessary, responsible supervisor shall state on Hazard Action forms the nature of the corrective action taken or to be taken by the responsible supervisor, specifying dates, in order to eliminate unsafe or unhealthy condition which may exist.
 2. Within two (2) business days of the receipt of the Hazard Report, the supervisor shall submit copies of the Hazard Action form to the Departmental Safety Officer, the Safety Steward concerned, the County-wide Safety Committee and the worker concerned.

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3. If the Safety Steward and/or the worker concerned are (is) not satisfied with the corrective action taken or to be taken, the matter may be appealed to the Departmental Safety Officer.
 4. Within ten (10) business days of receipt of Appeal, the Departmental Safety Officer shall further investigate and shall reassess and provide the Safety Steward and the worker concerned with a written statement (specifying dates) of action taken or to be taken.
 5. In the event that the worker concerned or the Safety Steward is not satisfied with the decision of the Departmental Safety Officer, the matter may be referred by any of the involved parties to the Departmental Safety Committee for decision and action.
 6. If the Departmental Safety Committee cannot agendize or satisfactorily resolve the matter within ten (10) days of receipt of appeal, it may be referred to the County-wide Safety Committee by any of the involved parties.
- c) In the event that a hazardous condition presents a clear and immediate danger to the health or safety of workers, the above time limits shall be reduced to immediate response and action.

10. **Supervisor's Report of Industrial Injury**

- a) The supervisor shall complete the Supervisor's Report of Industrial Injury on the same date he is informed of an on-the-job accident. This includes an investigation as to whether the accident was the result of an unsafe act or unsafe condition.
- b) The copies shall be immediately dispersed according to the instructions on the form with the exception of the fourth copy (Goldenrod-Department). This copy will be given to the injured worker. A fifth, duplicated, copy shall be provided the Safety Steward by the Departmental Safety Officer.
- c) If, in the opinion of the supervisor, the accident is the result of an unsafe working condition, the supervisor shall take immediate steps to correct it and complete a Hazard Action form following the procedure as outlined in Paragraph 9(b) above.
- d) If, in the opinion of the supervisor, the accident is not the result of an unsafe working condition and the injured worker or Safety Steward disagrees, the worker or Safety Steward shall complete a Hazard Report form following the procedure as outlined in paragraph 9(b) above.

Handwritten signatures in purple and blue ink, likely representing the Departmental Safety Officer and the Safety Steward.

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11. **Priority Status for Safety Work Orders**

When the Department Safety Officer states to Department of General Services-Building Operations that the item needing service is a safety hazard, the person in Building Operations receiving the request will so mark the order form. The section foreman will assign priority status to the Work Order so action begins within twenty-four (24) hours.

12. **Safety Work Procedures**

- a) The Departmental Safety Committees shall establish and periodically review by mutual agreement safety work procedures to ensure safe working practices and conditions. Safety work procedures shall be directed at specific health or safety problems, and shall be clear, simple, and precise, without being unnecessarily restrictive.
- b) Safety work procedures appropriate to each work area or place shall be posted on the bulletin board.

13. **Safety Training**

- a) The County-wide Safety Committee shall establish a Safety Training Subcommittee. This Subcommittee shall design and implement a County-wide training program for Safety Stewards, supervisors and non-supervisory workers, working with and through the Departmental Safety Committees, subject to the review and approval of the County-wide Safety Committee.
- b) Safety training shall be conducted on a departmental level. It shall include training in identification and correction of health and safety hazards, training in safe work practices, training in hazard report and appeal processes, training in Cal-OSHA regulations and procedures.
- c) Safety training shall be provided workers on a regular basis in each work area. A monthly written record shall be received and maintained by the Departmental Safety Committee reflecting the date, duration, and subject matter of any training provided. High hazard or injury areas may be required to conduct more frequent training sessions. Training shall be conducted at the lowest practical level of supervision.

14. **Video Display Terminal Provision**

a) **Guidelines**

Pursuant to the VDT Workstation Sideletter of the 1985-87 Contract, the County Executive's Guidelines for Purchasing and Maintenance of VDT Equipment dated July 3, 1987 has been issued to all departments.

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b) **Alternate Work for Pregnant Workers**

Although research to date has not proven that video display terminals are a health or safety hazard, in recognition of concern about potential adverse effects involving pregnancy, the County agrees to the following:

A pregnant worker assigned VDT functions may request reassignment, within her department/agency for the term of the pregnancy to non-VDT duties. The department will assess the request of the worker and may reassign, redistribute or restructure work to accommodate such request. A worker must submit a written request for the assignment to non-VDT duties. The department/agency shall not be required to make work or otherwise create positions that would not be performed in the normal course and scope of business nor to adversely affect the operation of the department/agency or work unit.

Reassignment, redistribution or restructuring of work may result in the assignment of duties outside the worker's job classification. In cases of assignments to a position in a lower classification, the worker shall be paid consistent with the lower classification and shall not continue any pay differentials unless eligibility exists in the position in the lower classification. In cases of assignments to a position in a higher classification, provisions of Section 7.5, Work Out of Classification, shall apply.

If a worker is required to work at a location other than her regular work location, all claims pursuant to Section 8.11, shall be waived.

Assignments pursuant to this Appendix shall supersede all departmental agreement assignment bidding provisions.

Any probationary worker reassigned to a different class shall not receive credit towards completion of the worker's probationary period for the period of reassignment. Credit towards completion of the probation period shall be given for time during which the worker's current classification duties have been redistributed or restructured within the same classification.

Should the worker refuse an offer of reassignment, work restructure, or work redistribution, the worker may request a personal leave of absence pursuant to Section 12.5(a), or seek, on her own, a permanent voluntary demotion or transfer. During the period of time that worker is seeking a permanent demotion or transfer or in the absence of the permanent transfer, demotion or personal leave, the worker shall continue to perform VDT duties.

If the department is not able to accommodate the request due to cost, operational impact, etc., the worker may request a personal leave of absence pursuant to Section 12.5(a) or seek on her own a permanent voluntary demotion or transfer or may seek on her own a temporary transfer

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to a permanent coded position which is vacant due to a leave of absence in another department/agency subject to the following conditions:

1. No more than seven (7) workers on a County-wide basis and no more than one (1) worker per department at any time may be temporarily transferred to a permanent coded position which is vacant due to a leave of absence outside of their department/agency.
2. The receiving department must agree to the temporary transfer.
3. Any worker seeking a temporary transfer must execute a contract and receive approval from the Office of Labor Relations. This contract will include, but not be limited to:
 - a. specific acknowledgement and waivers of layoff seniority in the department in which the vacant leave of absence position has been accepted;
 - b. waiver of bidding rights under the departmental agreement in the originating department (except those rights afforded workers on maternity leave);
 - c. waiver of bidding rights under the departmental agreement in the receiving department;
 - d. acknowledgement that should the vacant leave of absence position become unavailable, the worker shall be required to commence her leave of absence as of that date and may not return to her originating department until the conclusion of her maternity leave of absence.
4. For purposes of returning to her originating department, the worker shall be returned on the same basis as if Section 6.9 had applied.
5. The worker who has taken a position under this provision who begins her maternity leave shall be considered on leave from her originating department.
6. The worker shall continue to perform VDT duties during the period of time that the worker is seeking a permanent demotion or transfer, or transfer to a permanent position vacant due to a leave of absence or in the absence of any transfer, demotion or personal leave.



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