



Philip M. Vermeulen

GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

3457 Castle Creek Court Roseville, CA 95661 • PH (916) 784-7055 • Fax (916) 784-2852 • Web www.pvgov.com

Take HEED! This Saturday, February 28, 2015 is Deadline to Register as Public Works Contractor – If You Do Public Works Projects YOU MUST BE REGISTERED or Pay \$2,000 Fine!

Also In This Report

- **Heat Illness Regulations Approved**
- **Transportation Will Be Huge Issue at Capitol this year**

Saturday is Final Deadline to Register as Public Works Contractor Without Penalty

ALL California contractors who work on public works projects are facing a crucial deadline IF you want to bid or perform public works with the state or local agencies!! You MUST go online to the address listed below, register and pay the \$300 fee **BEFORE** this Sunday! **Waiting until past the deadline is NOT permissible (without paying a \$2,000 fine)!**

The requirement to list only registered contractors and subcontractors on ALL public works bids becomes effective on March 1, 2015. The requirement to only use registered contractors and subcontractors on public works projects applies to all projects awarded on or after April 1, 2015.

Essentials of public works contractor registration program:

- Contractors will be subject to a registration and annual renewal fee that has been set at \$300. The fee is non-refundable and applies to all contractors and subcontractors who intend to bid or perform work on public works projects (as defined under the Labor Code).
- Contractors must apply and pay the fee online and must meet minimum qualifications to be registered as eligible to bid and work on public works projects:

- Contractors must have workers' compensation coverage for any employees and only use subcontractors who are registered public works contractors.
- Contractors must have Contractors State License Board license if applicable to trade.
- Contractors must have no delinquent unpaid wage or penalty assessments owed to any employee or enforcement agency.
- Contractors must not be under federal or state debarment.
- Contractors must not be in prior violation of this registration requirement once it becomes effective. However, for the first violation in a 12 month period, a contractor may still qualify for registration by paying an additional penalty.
- The registration fee is not related to any project. It is more like a license that enables the registrant to bid on and perform public works.

If a contractor violates the deadlines, he may have to pay significant penalties, (\$2,000); and risk having work stopped until the registration is rectified. Awarding bodies (both state and local) will be closely following the new law!

This is your final warning! Register today and be done with it! Here's access to the registration form:

<https://efiling.dir.ca.gov/PWCR/ActionServlet?action=displayPWCRRegistrationForm>

Changes to Heat Illness Regulations Approved – May 1st Start!

Despite the objections of our employer coalition and others at last Thursday's hearing on the proposed revisions to the heat illness prevention standards, the Cal OSHA Standards Board approved the changes! Making matters even worse, the Office of Administrative Law – OAL - (who must approve the final adopted language), are going to allow for the new standards to take effect on May 1st, 2015 rather than normal timeframe which would have been July 1st, 2015!

With the short turnaround of May 1st for the new standards to take effect, it will mean that every affected employer will be required to revise their heat illness programs and train employees on an accelerated schedule!

The specific changes are:

- Water must be "fresh, pure, suitably cool" and located as close as practicable to where employees are working with exceptions when employers can demonstrate infeasibility.

- Shade must be present at 80 degrees, instead of the current 85, and accommodate all employees on recovery or rest periods, and those onsite taking meal periods.
- Employees taking a “preventative cool-down rest” must be monitored for symptoms of heat illness, encouraged to remain in the shade and not ordered back to work until symptoms are gone. Employees with symptoms must be provided appropriate first aid or emergency response.
- High-heat procedures (which will remain triggered at 95 degrees) shall ensure “effective” observation and monitoring, including a mandatory buddy system and regular communication with employees working by themselves. During high heat, employees must be provided with a minimum 10-minute cool-down period every two hours.
- Emergency response procedures include effective communication, response to signs and symptoms of heat illness and procedures for contacting emergency responders to help stricken workers.
- Acclimation (sic) procedures including close observation of all employees during a heat wave – defined as at least 80 degrees. New employees must be closely observed for their first two weeks on the job.

I will be providing information on training solutions in forthcoming weeks as well as additional information about the new standards as it becomes available. Even Cal OSHA’s website does not have ANY information as of yet that the standards have been adopted!!!

Transportation Will Be At Forefront this Session

As I have been reporting over the past several months, the future of transportation in California and how to pay for the billions that are needed just to keep our existing roadways drivable will be one of THE top issues before the Legislature this session. Tomorrow, Friday, February 27th is the deadline for new bill introductions.

The majority of new bills will be introduced this week (with the onslaught culminating at 5 PM tomorrow). Over the course of the next several weeks, I will be reporting on all of them that affect your business.

No new bill can be heard in a policy committee for at least 30 days after its introduction. I expect that the majority will be heard starting upon return of the Legislature from their Spring break on Monday, April 6th and lasting through the remainder of April.

Stay tuned!