

History of the Safety and Health Rules in Wisconsin

The Wisconsin State Industrial Commission established the first safety and health rules for all citizens of Wisconsin in 1914. Due to the prevalence of factory jobs at this time, the law makers saw the need to insure the safety and health of all workers by promulgating rules.

Wisconsin Statute 101.11 Employer's duty to furnish safe employment and place, gave the Industrial Commission the authority to establish these rules.

In 1970, the now renamed Department of Industry, Labor and Human Relations, under the authority of Wisconsin Statutes 101.055 Public employee safety and health, established rules and regulations for all public employees. Private employees were now covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Therefore, safety and health inspections today are not a new process. These rules establish the minimum standards for safety and health for all public employees. The rules are found in the Wisconsin Administrative Code SPS 332 and the OSHA codes. SPS 332 is available on line at www.dsps.wisconsin.gov and the OSHA codes are also available online at www.OSHA.gov.

Who does these inspections?

These inspections are performed by DSPS safety inspectors. Other state and local inspectors may check other items in the building. Fire inspectors may have issues for gas and combustible material storage and building inspectors may have concern for fire-door and fire-wall rated boiler and furnace rooms. Public employers should not mistakenly assume all visiting inspectors are safety and health inspectors. To contact a DSPS safety and health inspector in your area, a map is available with telephone number and email address on the website: <https://dsps.wi.gov/Documents/Programs/Maps/PublicSafety.pdf>