ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF LABOR STANDARDS AND SAFETY

DOSH Program Directive 88-1

May 23, 1988

TO : All OSH Staff

SUBJECT: Scheduling of State and Local Government Agencies

1. PURPOSE: This program directive establishes a pilot program for the inspection of State and local government agencies.

2. DIRECTIVE AFFECTED: Chapter II, Compliance Manual.

3. BACKGROUND: The occupational injury and illness incidence rates for State and local governments have increased more rapidly than for the private sector. In the private sector, the incidence rate has increase from 9.1 in 1980 to 9.6 in 1986, an increase of 5 percent. The State government rate has gone from 3.3 to 6.0 in the same period, an increase of 82 percent; and the local government rate has increased from 6.3 to 9.0, an increase of 43 percent. There is a need, therefore, to assure that the inspections scheduled for government agencies are targeted at the agencies with the most injuries and to increase the percentage of programmed inspections in the government sector from 5 percent to 15 percent of total programmed inspections. Information concerning these injuries is available from Workers' Compensation. The Chief of Safety Compliance will have available for use by COs, a listing of the 1987 time loss cases for State and local government agencies.

4. PROCEDURES: The Assistant Chief of Safety Compliance will use Workers' Compensation data and information from other sources that may be available, to prepare a list of local and State government agencies or worksites that have high rates of injuries and illnesses. Inspection of these agencies will be prioritized per Appendix A for State agencies and per Appendix B for local government agencies. After this list is prepared, the Assistant Chief will separate those worksites that fall into the construction industries. These SIC 15-17 worksites will be scheduled in accordance to E.2.b.(2), "Inspection Scheduling for Construction," of the Compliance Manual. The worksites that are not in SIC 15-17 will be scheduled as "local emphasis" inspections in accordance to procedures set out in E.2.b.(3), "Local Emphasis Worksites," of the Compliance Manual.

5. RECORDING IN THE IMIS: Current instructions for completing the appropriate inspection classification boxes on the AKDOSH-1, Inspection Report, as found in the IMIS Manual, will be applied when recording inspections in State and local government agencies:

A. Box 17 will be checked "State Government" or "Local Government" as appropriate for both "construction" and "local emphasis" government inspections.

B. For Local Emphasis inspections, Item 25c will be checked and record "PUBSEC" in the space after Item 25c.

6. INSPECTION PROCEDURES: Compliance officers should review closely the occupational safety and health (OSH) program for government agencies. There appears to be a lack of understanding and commitment by local and State government administrators to provide effective safety and health programs for their employees.

7. EVALUATION: This pilot program will be in effect for a year until June 30, 1989. In order to evaluate its effectiveness, the Chief of Safety Compliance will conduct an interim evaluation on December 30, 1988, and an evaluation at the end of the twelve-month period on June 30, 1989. The interim evaluation should contain the following:

A. The number of scheduled inspections conducted in State and local government worksites and what this number is as a percentage of total scheduled inspections.

B. The number of serious and non-serious violations cited and how this compares with the violations found in the private sector and a comparison with the violations for the last two years in the public section.

C. An evaluation of which government operations have the most hazards.

D. The types of violations cited.

The annual evaluation should, in addition to the information in 7.A-D, contain:

E. Any trends in the types of hazards and violations identified.

F. Based on the data gathered, a recommendation on whether this pilot program should be continued and any changes to make it more effective.

8. EFFECTIVE DATE: This directive becomes effective July 1, 1988.

Tom Stuart, Director

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Jim Sampson, Commissioner