



The Honorable Ron DeSantis
Governor of Florida
400 S. Monroe St.
Tallahassee, FL 32399

March 21, 2024

Dear Governor DeSantis:

The International Safety Equipment Association (ISEA) and the Institute for Hazardous Material Management (IHMM) respectfully request that you veto HB 433, which prevents local governments in Florida from establishing their own heat stress regulations. It is clear that exposure to extreme heat can be dangerous to people, even resulting in death. Clearly, we all support keeping workers safe and healthy. Over 300 people died at work in Florida in 2022¹, and some of these deaths were caused by overexposure to heat. Heat safety programs have the following benefits:

Heat Stress Programs Improve Worker Safety: Allowing establishment of heat stress programs will save workers' lives. Effective heat stress management programs have been shown to reduce incidences of heat related illness by over 90%². A new industry-led American National Standard (ANSI/ASSP A10.50 – 2024³) provides detailed guidance for establishing heat stress programs, which we strongly encourage organizations to adopt.

Heat Stress Programs Make Economic Sense: Florida's economy loses over \$11B annually due to heat-induced productivity declines⁴, including worker compensation costs. This could increase to \$52B by 2050. Allowing local governments to establish heat stress regulations will shrink this productivity decline, and also reduce heat illness-related worker compensation costs by over 50%. This benefits employers, employees, Florida families and strengthens the state's economy.

Our research estimates that over 5 million workers⁵ in Florida require heat stress protection on the job, such as regular hydration, rest, shade, and cooling personal protective equipment (PPE), in order to be safe on the job. Thank you for your consideration of this crucial matter.

Respectfully,

International Safety Equipment Association
Institute of Hazardous Materials Management

¹ <https://www.bls.gov/iif/fatal-injuries-tables.htm>

² <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/31274674/>

³ <https://www.assp.org/news-and-articles/assp-publishes-first-standard-on-heat-stress-in-construction>

⁴ <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/in-depth-research-reports/report/extreme-heat-the-economic-and-social-consequences-for-the-united-states/>

⁵ <https://safetyequipment.org/industry-impact/>