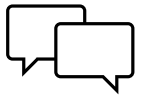


RULEMAKING PROCESS

ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



STAGE 1: PRE-RULE

OSHA collects and analyzes information on a safety or health hazard to determine if a rule is needed. The agency meets with the public and often asks them to comment and submit data through two types of documents it publishes — a Request for Information (RFI) or Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM). Public comments help OSHA develop a proposed rule.

RFIs are generally used when OSHA is determining whether to proceed with regulation and, if so, what general approach to take. ANPRMs are generally used when the agency has developed multiple regulatory options and seeks input on which option to propose.

STAGE 2-3: PROPOSED RULE

OSHA develops a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that proposes new rules or changes to existing rules. In addition, the NPRM explains the basis and purpose of the new rule or changes to a rule. OSHA continues communication with stakeholders, consults with advisory committees, and conducts Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA) meetings. The NPRM is then published in the Federal Register for viewing by the public.

STAGES 4-5: FINAL RULE DEVELOPMENT

OSHA analyzes the rulemaking record leading to the rule, including all public comments and other information the agency has collected to develop the final rule, which presents:

- An explanation of the rule's requirements including OSHA's analysis that support its decisions
- OSHA's responses to the public comments on the NPRM
- The dates when the rule becomes effective and employers must start complying

STAGES 6-7: PUBLICATION/OUTREACH

OSHA publishes the final rule in the Federal Register and performs outreach activities to help the public understand the rule.

Testifying and Commenting

- The public may be asked to speak at meetings such as those of [federal advisory committees](#), stakeholder meetings, or send in written comments related to the topics discussed.
- Each RFI, ANPRM, and NPRM is published in the Federal Register, the official journal of the federal government. RFIs or ANPRMs, and NPRMs announce a comment period when the public can submit written comments, data, and answers to questions posed by the agency.

SBREFA

- The SBREFA process allows small business employers to let OSHA know how the proposed rule will affect their businesses.

Testifying at Public Hearings

- If OSHA holds a public hearing, the schedule for the hearing is published in the Federal Register, with detailed information on how to participate, including instructions for submitting Notices of Intention to appear (NOITA) for those that wish to speak and ask questions.