



SCWA Legislative & Regulatory Update

September 30, 2024



Congress Passes Bill to Avoid Government Shutdown

Congress approved a stopgap funding bill last week, avoiding a government shutdown after House Republicans removed a provision pushed by Former President Trump that would have required proof of citizenship for voter registration nationwide.

The bill, crafted through negotiations between House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., and top Democratic lawmakers, maintains federal funding at current levels until December 20, setting up another fiscal showdown just before the holiday season.

Additionally, it provides \$231 million in extra funding for the Secret Service.

The measure passed the Senate by a 78-18 vote after the House cleared it with a 341-82 margin. All opposition votes came from Republicans.

President Joe Biden signed the legislation into law, sidestepping the shutdown deadline.

Both the House and Senate are now on recess and are not expected to return until after the November 5 election.

OSHA Severe Injury Report Dashboard

On September 4, 2024, DOL launched its online [Severe Injury Report dashboard](#), a tool designed for users to search the DOL's Severe Injury Report database and view trends related to workplace injuries.

OSHA defines a severe injury as “an amputation, in-patient hospitalization, or loss of an eye.”

The dashboard covers injury data from 2015 to 2023.

The data can be broken down by NAICS code, establishment name, state, year, body part, source, nature, and events/exposure and will be regularly updated.

The database does not include data from states with their own state workplace safety and health plans.

This is the first time these reports will be made publicly available, and it raises several concerns. For example, the database provides severe injury data without providing much context, enabling others to create a false or misleading picture of an employer's workplace safety practices and record.

The information will also likely be used by litigants, insurance companies, regulators and others for any number of reasons.

That said, we do believe the dashboard will be useful for companies and associations when they want to use injury data in comments responding to OSHA rulemakings.

For example, through some initial searches using the tool, we found that, in 2023, the majority of severe injuries in the “couriers and express delivery services” sector were due to “exposure to environmental heat.”

As OSHA has recently issued its proposed Heat Injury and Illness rulemaking, having access to data on the number, origin, and details of industry injuries at the hands of heat will be valuable.

IRS Provides an Update to Frequently Asked Questions for the Premium Tax Credit

The Internal Revenue Service today updated its frequently asked questions in [Fact Sheet 2024-30 PDF](#) for the Premium Tax Credit.

These FAQs supersede earlier FAQs that were posted in [FS 2024-04 PDF](#) on Feb. 9, 2024.

The revision is under the Affordability of Employer Coverage for Employees and for Family Members of Employees section, specifically Q11, to provide the required contribution percentage for determining whether employer coverage is considered affordable for plan years beginning in 2025.

The revision is based on [Revenue Procedure 2024-35 PDF](#).

More information about [reliance is available](#).



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