

I. Executive Summary

California Senate Bill (SB) 198 clearly reinforces employers' accountability for the occupational safety and health of their employees. SB 198 was passed and chaptered into the Insurance and Labor Code on October 2, 1989. Regulations amending the General Industrial Safety Orders (GISO) in the California Code of Regulations, Title 8, were adopted on December 13, 1990 and incorporated in GISO section 3203, Injury and Illness Prevention Program.

Beginning July 1, 1991, revised Section 3203 requires employers to establish, implement and maintain an effective, written Injury and Illness Prevention Program. The required elements within the regulation provide specific criteria by which Cal/OSHA will evaluate the program. This regulation does not exempt State agencies from its provisions. It should also be noted that the Program applies only to occupational (worker) safety and health, and does not encompass other campus activities related to injury prevention (students not employed by the campus, traffic safety, public, etc.).

The regulation contains the elements in a format that requires the designation of a responsible person (or persons) and a system for: (1) communicating with employees on matters concerning safety and health; (2) identifying and evaluating workplace hazards; (3) implementing procedures for injury/illness investigation; (4) mitigating hazards; (5) training employees; and (6) maintaining records. A comprehensive Injury and Illness Prevention Program has been prepared by the Department of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) for implementation at SDSU. The intent of the program is to:

- Facilitate identification and evaluation of workplace hazards.
- Enable the correction of unsafe conditions.
- Provide a means of communication between the university and the campus community on matters concerning employee safety and health.
- Educate and train employees on health and safety matters.
- Implement a strategy by which compliance with the regulation can be achieved and documented.

The SDSU Injury and Illness Prevention Program was designed to specifically address the legislation and regulations outlined above, and to function as an "umbrella" program that incorporates the elements of other occupational hazard control programs and procedures (e.g., Hazard Awareness and Communication Program, Chemical Hygiene Plan, etc.). It can be readily modified to integrate new or revised health and safety programs, including procedures required by new, pending or future legislation.