

Occupational Requirements Survey

Visual Overview for Environmental Conditions Data Elements



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Environmental Conditions data elements provide a systematic means to describe surroundings or settings in which the occupation is found or the job may be performed. The incidence of personal protective equipment (PPE) is identified for occupations that have exposure to hazardous contaminants; moving, mechanical parts; high, exposed places; and loud noises. The amount of exposure workers have to these elements will be identified if exposure is not completely mitigated by PPE.

This document offers a general overview and basic descriptions of the Environmental Conditions that are collected by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) for the Occupational Requirements Survey (ORS). These definitions are intended to provide information only and are not intended to be used during the course of data collection.

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Extreme Cold

Exposure to non-weather related temperatures that are:

40 degrees or colder if the exposure is 2/3 or more of the work day

32 degrees or colder if the exposure is for less than 2/3 of the work day



Extreme Heat

Exposure to non-weather related temperatures that exceed:

85 degrees in a humid atmosphere

90 degrees in a dry atmosphere



Hazardous Contaminants

Exposure to any of the following: toxic, and or caustic chemicals, noxious odors, dusts and fumes that affect the respiratory system, eyes, skin or other living tissue.



Heavy Vibration

Exposure to a shaking object or surface that causes a strain on the body or extremities.



High, Exposed Places

Exposure to possible bodily injury from falling.



Humidity

Non-weather related exposure to conditions where the air contains a high amount of water or water vapor.



Noise Intensity Level

The noise intensity level to which the worker is exposed in the job:

Quiet, Moderate, Loud and Very Loud



Outdoors

Job requires work outdoors. This does not include the commute to/from work.



Proximity to Moving, Mechanical Parts

Operation of or proximity to materials, mechanical parts, settings, or any moving objects (most commonly moving machinery or equipment) that could cause bodily harm.



Wetness

Any non-weather related contact with water or other liquids.

