

MIGRANT LABOR CAMP FAQ

Q. How can I apply for a migrant labor permit?

A. Contact the local Environmental Health Office that serves the county where your camp is located to discuss the application and camp requirements.

Call:

- Pittsylvania County Health Department: 434-433-3544
- Halifax County Health Department: 434-476-4863
- Mecklenburg County Health Department: 434-738-6815
- Brunswick County Health Department: 434-848-2525

Email:

- Pittsylvania County: EnvironmentalHealthPDHD@vdh.virginia.gov
- Southside Health District: EnvironmentalHealthSSHD@vdh.virginia.gov (includes the counties of Halifax, Mecklenburg and Brunswick)

CLICK HERE to download Migrant Labor Camp application or visit our websites at:

- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/pittsylvania-danville/>
- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/southside/>

Q. When does my application have to be in?

A. Migrant labor camp applicants are required to submit an application 30 days prior to the camp opening. The camp must be inspected before a permit is issued.

Q. When does my permit expire?

A. December 31st each year.

Q. Is there a charge for a migrant labor camp permit?

A. There is no charge at this time.

Q. Can I increase the number of migrants from last year?

A. Possibly. The local health department must review the septic system design and capacity. This review may determine the need for an OSE (Onsite Soil Evaluator) or PE (Professional Engineer) to evaluate the system and determine if the system can accommodate additional capacity, or if changes to the system are needed.

If an applicant wants to create a new migrant labor camp, the septic capacity of the camp must be evaluated.

- If the septic system is existing, the septic system may require a change of use review and a wastewater characterization provided by a PE. It is possible the septic system may need to expand, or an entirely new system be installed.
- If a septic system is not present, an application to install a septic system must be submitted through an OSE or PE.

Q. How often do I have to test the water at my migrant camp for bacteria?

A. Once a year. Please contact the Virginia Employment Commission for details related to water testing requirements.

Q. How do I know if my migrant camp falls under ETA (Employment & Training Administration) or OSHA (Occupational Safety & Health Administration) regulations?

A. Employers whose housing was completed or under construction prior to April 3, 1980, or was under a signed contract for construction prior to March 4, 1980, may continue to follow the ETA standards as outlined in 20 CFR §654. If the employer elects to be governed by OSHA standards, the camp will be governed by OSHA standards throughout the life of the camp (from the date the employer determines to be governed by OSHA until the camp is closed).

Employers whose housing was completed after April 3, 1980 must follow the OSHA standards as outlined in 29 CFR §1910.142.

Q. Where can I find migrant labor camp regulations?

A.

- Code of Virginia: Migrant Labor Camps (§32.1-203 thru 211)
- Virginia Regulations: Rules and Regulations Governing the Construction and Maintenance of Migrant Labor Camps (12VAC5-501 et seq.)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration(OSHA) Housing Standards: 29 CFR §1910.142
- Employment and Training Administration (ETA) Housing Standards: 20 CFR §654

Or, visit our websites at:

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- <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/southside/>

Q. What do I do if I want to build, substantially remodel or enlarge a migrant labor camp?

A. Communicate with the local building official of your plans and notify the Environmental Health Office at least 30 days before the date of beginning the construction, remodeling, enlargement or conversion. A plan review application may be required. Alterations to the existing camp will cause the camp to be regulated under the OSHA regulations.