

Government Relations Update – November 1, 2021

Urgent Government Relations Update

1. New Guidance on Vaccine Mandate for Federal Contractors

The Safer Workplace Taskforce has today issued new Guidance on the vaccine mandate for federal contractors. We have not yet reviewed this new guidance, but wanted to share it with you immediately given the December 8th deadline. You can access the Task Force updated guidance documents here:

[Federal Contractors | Safer Federal Workforce](#)

And a *Politico* story reports that:

Federal contractors subject to President Joe Biden’s vaccine mandate will largely be in charge of policing noncompliant employees, according to new guidance released by the White House Monday.

If a worker refuses to get vaccinated and hasn’t requested an accommodation, federal contractors “should determine the appropriate means of enforcement,” according to the guidance from the Safer Federal Workforce Task Force.

Contractors, however, won’t have full leeway in enforcing the forthcoming mandate; a federal agency may deny a contract worker access to a federal work site if it determines the worker isn’t in compliance with the vaccine rules, according to the guidelines.

The guidance also says agencies should terminate contracts with contractors who aren’t “taking steps” to comply with the mandate.

Companies that do business with the federal government have threatened to cancel their contracts over the mandate, expressing fears they won’t be able to meet the Dec. 8 deadline and the requirements will make it harder to find workers.

The Labor Department is also expected to soon issue emergency rules requiring private businesses with more than 100 employees to ensure their workers are vaccinated or submit to weekly Covid-19 tests, which Republicans have also threatened to challenge in court.

2. OSHA ETS Coming Soon

OSHA has now been authorized to release its ETS, and we expect to see it this week, possibly as early as today.

Many thanks—

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