

Heat Thresholds

*The rule contains two heat thresholds:

An “initial heat trigger” equal to a heat index of 80 degrees Fahrenheit or a “wet bulb globe temperature” equal to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) Recommended Alert Limit.

A “high heat trigger” equal to a heat index of 90 degrees Fahrenheit or a “wet bulb globe temperature” equal to the NIOSH Recommended Exposure Limit.

(Wet bulb globe temperature is a measurement of heat that accounts for the four major environmental heat factors: (1) ambient air temperature (measured in the sun), (2) humidity, (3) radiant heat (from sunlight or artificial heat sources), and (4) air movement).

By contrast, heat index is a measurement of air temperature and humidity only, measured in the shade (often referred to as the “feels like” temperature). Employers have flexibility to choose which measure of heat (heat index or wet bulb globe temperature) to monitor for compliance with the standard.