

This chapter deals mainly with the legislation which affords a legal basis for reducing the incidence of disease among industrial workers. Particular attention is accorded those provisions in the industrial laws which establish minimum standards for illumination, ventilation and sanitation. Safety requirements, however, are also included. The General Safety Act of 1937, the basic State industrial law, contains a broad variety of safety and health provisions and is the first statute summarized in the chapter. The Pennsylvania Occupational Disease Act of 1939,³ an act designed to compensate employees or their families for disability or death occasioned by specific occupational diseases, is considered at the end of the chapter. Not included in the chapter are the laws relating to the hours of employment of women and children or workmen's compensation legislation.

ADMINISTRATION

Department of Labor and Industry

The Department of Labor and Industry and the Department of Health are the State administrative agencies principally concerned with the regulation of industrial health. The Administrative Code of 1929 grants authority to the Department of Labor and Industry to control industrial health. The Code requires the Department to inspect places of employment, to investigate industrial accidents, and to prescribe safeguards for the prevention of accidents.⁴ The Code also authorizes the Department to issue rules and regulations for carrying into effect the laws governing employment and the laws regulating the construction and ventilation of places of employment and the equipment used therein.⁵

Department of Health

The Department of Health enters the field of industrial health control by virtue of the broad general health powers contained in the Administrative Code of 1929 requiring the Department to

³ Act of June 21, 1939, P.L. 566, as amended, 77 P.S. §§ 1201 et seq.

⁴ Administrative Code, § 2702(a)-(g), 71 P.S. § 562(a)-(g).

⁵ *Id.* at § 2703, 71 P.S. § 563.

Although not directly related to industrial health, the Department of Labor and Industry is charged with the enforcement and administration of the Act of May 27, 1937, P.L. 916, as amended, 35 P.S. §§ 972-984, which regulates the manufacture, sale and lease of new and secondhand mattresses, pillows and other filled bedding, rushions and all types of upholstered furniture.