NEW CLEANING REQUIREMENTS

On July 7, 2020, the San Francisco Board of Supervisors unanimously voted to pass a union-backed measure titled the “Healthy Building Ordinance.” Introduced as an emergency measure, the Healthy Buildings Ordinance goes into effect immediately upon passage by the Mayor of San Francisco, which is expected to be at 5:00 p.m. on July 18, 2020 and last for 60 days.

Among its key provisions are mandated cleaning requirements, prohibitions against programs incentivizing reduced room cleanings, and a private right of action for employees alleging failure to comply with the ordinance. While the measure, which would apply to all hotels with more than six rooms, is awaiting final passage, it is expected to pass into law soon and, though temporary, the ordinance can be extended by the Board of Supervisors. Additionally, similar legislation may see the measures contained therein become permanent requirements. CHLA is working with local and federal partners to address the issues contained within this ordinance.

HIGH CONTACT AREAS

The following “High Contact Areas” must be cleaned multiple times per day:

- Public and employee areas
- Elevators
- Stairways, stairwells, and escalators
- Restrooms
- Meeting rooms
- Multi-use Instruments/items
- Doors
- Dining and bar facilities
- Shipping and receiving areas
- Guest rooms as specifically outlined

PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION

Hotels can be sued for non-compliance.

According to Section 7 of the ordinance, “Any Employee or former Employee may bring a civil action in the San Francisco Superior Court for violations of this ordinance,” and may be awarded:

1. Actual damages or statutory damages up to $1,000
2. Exemplary/punitive damages
3. Attorneys’ fees and costs

CHLA + CAbBI Members:
Questions or concerns?
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