



Nebraska Department of Roads
Space Heater Policy
March, 2002

Position

The Department of Roads generally discourages the use of space heaters in the office environment. However, performance of air handling systems and office arrangements may contribute to temperature variations within portions of those facilities. It is acknowledged that comfort levels for each individual may vary in the same environment.

The Department of Roads is responsible for providing a safe workplace environment within our facilities. Success in providing a safe place to work depends on the assistance and cooperation of each employee.

In an effort to reduce the likelihood of a dangerous situation arising from the use of space heaters or other similar devices, the Department of Roads, in consultation with other State agencies, has adopted the following policy.

Policy

The Department of Roads, Human Resources, Employee Safety Office, and/or safety committees will review and verify that each space heater or similar devices meet the manufacturer's specifications outlined below. They will also verify that sufficient operational requirements are met for the safe operation of these devices.

Required Specifications:

1. Contain a non-glowing heat element
2. Utilize a cool-to-the-touch housing
3. Contain a tip-over automatic shut-off
4. Not exceed 1500 watts
5. Be UL approved

Operational Requirements:

1. Be connected to a power supply with adequate power cords
2. Be connected with a timer device that is set for normal business hours
3. Be used in the immediate proximity of the person responsible for such device
4. Be turned off or unplugged when not attended by the person responsible

All verifications of the specifications and requirements will be performed during routine safety inspections.