October 29, 2001

Mr. Al Zenkus
9 Gloucester Road
Worcester, MA 01607

Re: Housing Authorities Health and Welfare Plans

Dear Mr. Zenkus:

You have asked the Division of Occupational Safety (DOS) to answer the following question:

With respect to housing authorities whose employee's health and life insurance are not covered by the Group Insurance Commission, are housing authorities responsible for making additional contributions to health and welfare plans?

The DOS in accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. ch. 121B, s. 29, provides housing authorities with minimum wage rates. On the rate sheets that DOS provides to the housing authorities includes the following sentence: "authorities whose employees are covered by health and life insurance through the Group Insurance Commission are in compliance with Department guidelines and need not make additional contributions to health and welfare plans".

After conferring with the Department of Housing and Community Development, we have determined that housing authorities which do not offer health and life insurance through the Group Insurance Commission, are required to offer to make additional contributions to health and welfare plans to the maintenance staff. Please keep in mind that in this situation; the housing authorities do have to offer to make additional contributions to health and welfare plans but that it is up to the maintenance staff to take advantage of the offer.

If you have any further questions concerning this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Ronald E. Maranian
Program Manager