

April 23, 2024 – News Release

### **FTC votes to ban noncompete agreements**

The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) voted 3-2 to ban noncompete agreements that prevent tens of millions of employees from working for competitors or starting a competing business. The FTC estimates [18 percent of the U.S. workforce](#) is covered by noncompete agreements — about 30 million people. The final rule would ban new noncompete agreements for all workers and require companies to let current and past employees know they won't enforce them. Companies will also have to throw out existing noncompete agreements for most employees, although the agreements may remain in effect for senior executives.

<https://www.ftc.gov/news-events/news/press-releases/2024/04/ftc-announces-rule-banning-noncompetes>

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### **EPA Finalizes Stronger Chemical Risk Evaluation Process to Protect Workers**

WASHINGTON, DC -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule that strengthens its process for conducting risk evaluations on chemicals under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Consideration of real-world exposure scenarios, multiple exposure pathways (e.g., in air and water) to the same chemical, and combined risks from multiple chemicals. The final rule applies to all risk evaluations initiated 30-days after the date of publication of the final rule.

<https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-finalizes-stronger-chemical-risk-evaluation-process-protect-workers-and>

### **National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls**

The American Society of Safety Professionals (ASSP) encourages safety professionals and employers to raise awareness and participate in the 11th annual [National Safety Stand-Down to Prevent Falls in Construction](#) on May 6-10. The observance is part of a year-round campaign led by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

### **State Fund – Safety News**

[5 Ways to Protect Your Employees from a Workplace Fire](#)

[Safety Meeting: Distracted Driving Prevention](#)

[CPR and AEDs Can Be a Life Saver](#)

[Safety Culture: Hazard Identification](#)

CBT - Training at your employees' convenience

### **US-DEA will move to reclassify marijuana**

- The DEA plans to reclassify marijuana from Schedule I to Schedule III, joining less dangerous drugs like ketamine and some steroids, after approval by the OMB.
- President Biden initiated the review of federal marijuana law, leading to the DEA's reclassification proposal for medical use acknowledgment and lower abuse potential.
- Biden aims to address the negative impacts of criminal records for marijuana offenders on employment, housing, and education.

[https://ground.news/article/us-drug-control-agency-will-move-to-reclassify-marijuana-in-a-historic-shift-ap-sources-say\\_d52ad3](https://ground.news/article/us-drug-control-agency-will-move-to-reclassify-marijuana-in-a-historic-shift-ap-sources-say_d52ad3)