



BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES
Wage and Hour Division

RIGHTS OF WORKERS

Farm and Forest Labor Contractor Law

There are laws in Oregon which regulate the activities of Farm and Forest Labor Contractors. Under these laws, contractors are required to:

1. Have a license and show it to persons with whom he or she contracts.
2. Give to each worker the contractor hires, recruits, solicits or supplies, a written agreement which describes the terms and conditions of employment. This form must be written in English and in any other language used to communicate with workers.
3. Give to each worker a written form which describes the rights of employees. This form must be in English and in any other language used to communicate with workers.
4. Post a notice in a conspicuous place which says the contractor has the required bond or deposit. This notice must state that if the contractor owes wages to a worker and does not pay, the worker may make a claim against the bond or deposit.

Each worker has the right to take legal action against a contractor if that contractor violates certain laws regulating the contractor's activities. For information about your right to take legal action, call any office of the Bureau of Labor and Industries (see listing of offices on next page).

The Minimum Wage

Farm or forest labor contractors are required to pay their employees (except agricultural hand harvest labor and a few others) no less than the minimum wage. The minimum wage is \$7.95 per hour from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008. These laws do not apply to all workers. If you have questions, contact any office of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Rest and Meal Periods

Effective February 1, 2004, most agricultural employees in Oregon must receive rest breaks and meal periods. Employers must provide workers with a paid, uninterrupted 10-minute rest break for every four-hour segment or major portion thereof in the work period. Employers must provide employees with at least a 30-minute unpaid meal period when the work period is six hours or greater. There are some exceptions. For more information, contact any office of the Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Federal Government Contracts

If you are working under a federal government contract, the contractor for whom you work must pay you no less than the minimum wage. The minimum wage for these contracts is \$7.95 per hour from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 except when a higher rate has been established. The contractor must post a notice in a conspicuous place which gives the minimum wage or the higher wage if it has been established.

There are other rights for employees that work under federal contracts. For information, call the Federal Department of Labor. The telephone number is (503) 326-3057, or write: U.S. Department of Labor, Wage & Hour Division, 1515 S.W. Fifth, Suite 1040, Portland, OR 97201.

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Wage Claims

If an employer owes wages to a worker and does not pay, the worker may file a claim for back wages. In order to file a claim, contact any office of the Bureau of Labor and Industries. It will be necessary to fill out a form and to provide other information about what you are owed.

On-the-Job Accidents

Your employer is required to maintain an insurance policy which covers on-the-job accidents. Your employer should post a notice which provides information about this insurance.

The insurance company will pay the cost of medical treatment. It will also pay wages to the worker if he or she is unable to work because of the accident.

The employer is required to have a form which is used to notify the insurance company of the accident. Get one of these forms from your employer, fill it out and return it to him or her. He or she will send it to the insurance company. If you do not have a form or cannot get one from your employer, call the Workers Compensation Department at 1-800-452-0288 to obtain one.

Unemployment Benefits

Oregon law provides benefits to persons who work, lose their jobs and are not able to find another one. These unemployed persons may receive payments from the State of Oregon for a limited amount of time while looking for a job. This law is complicated and is not detailed here. It is sufficient to say that some agricultural and forest workers have certain rights. If you are able to look for work, you may qualify for these benefits. Check with an office of the Oregon State Employment Department.

Laws Prohibiting Discrimination

Oregon and federal civil rights laws forbid an employer or landlord to discriminate against a worker or tenant because of race, color, sex, national origin, or religion. An employer may not discriminate against a worker who has been injured on the job. Civil rights laws protect workers from additional kinds of discrimination and also give workers certain rights. For more information, call the Civil Rights Division of any office of the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries.

Offices of the Bureau of Labor and Industries

Eugene

1400 Executive Parkway, Suite 200
Eugene, OR 97401
(541) 686-7623
TDY: (541) 686-7847

Medford

119 N. Oakdale Avenue
Medford OR 97501
(541) 776-6270

Portland

800 NE Oregon Street, #1045
Portland, OR 97232-2180
(971) 673-0761
TDY: (971) 673-0766

Salem

3865 Wolverine Street NE, Building E-1
Salem, OR 97305-1268
(503) 378-3292

Employee Signature

Date Received

Printed Name