

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
WASHINGTON, D. C.

BULLETINS ISSUED ON SEAMAN AND FISHING
EXEMPTIONS UNDER THE FAIR LABOR STANDARDS ACT

Two interpretative bulletins clarifying the exemptions in the Fair Labor Standards Act applicable to seamen and to the seafood and fishery industry were issued today by Elmer F. Andrews, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. Both bulletins were prepared in the office of the General Counsel of the Division.

The "seaman bulletin" interpreted the Act as exempting the crews of vessels operating on the inland waterways as well as on the high seas. The exemption extends to members of the crew such as sailors, engineers, radio operators, firemen, pursers, surgeons, cooks, and stewards. The exemption, however, was construed as not being applicable to such employees as stevedores, longshoremen, lighter captains, barge workers (except crews of seagoing barges) and employees engaged in dredging operations.

The seafood and fishery industry exemption was held applicable to employees in that industry whose work is dependent upon and affected to a considerable extent by natural factors, as, for example, the processing of fish byproducts into fish meal. No exemption is provided for employees engaged in the manufacture of pearl buttons, knife handles, and crushed shell and grit. Office employees, watchmen and cooks ordinarily do not come under this exemption although some of these employees may be engaged in specific duties which would bring them within the exemption, the bulletin stated.

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