

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington

ISSUANCE OF LEARNER CERTIFICATES FOR KNITTED WEAR INDUSTRY

Knitting mills manufacturing knitted goods other than hosiery and knitted gloves may obtain special certificates for the employment of learners at a rate of not less than 22-1/2 cents an hour by representing that experienced workers are not available in their application, according to a "Determination and Order" issued today by Merle D. Vincent, Chief of the Hearings and Exemptions Section, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. Mr. Vincent presided at a hearing on learners in the knitted wear and hosiery industry on December 14, 1938. Findings in the matter of learners in the hosiery industry have already been issued. Employers in the knitted goods industry desiring such certificates should write the Wage and Hour Division in Washington for application blanks.

The determination limits the number of learners to 5 per cent of the total number of workers in the mill engaged in sewing-machine and knitting-machine operations. However, as many as five learners may be authorized in any certificate, and, in certain circumstances, additional learners will be permitted.

Such certificates must be posted in the mill and are revocable as of the date of issuance if it is found that experienced workers were available when the certificate was issued. The certificates also are cancellable prospectively if it is found that any of their terms have been violated or that skilled workers have become available. Certificates expire October 24, 1940.

The term "learner" is defined as a person who has not been previously employed for more than eight weeks in the aggregate during the preceding three years upon sewing-machine or knitting-machine operations, respectively.

At the same time the Wage and Hour Division issued a "Notice of Opportunity to Petition for Review", which provides that any person aggrieved by this "Determination and Order" may petition for review by filing such a petition within fifteen days.