

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour Division
Washington

SEASONAL EXEMPTION PROPOSED FOR LOUISIANA CANE SUGAR
PROCESSING AND MILLING

A partial exemption from the hours provision of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the cane sugar processing and milling branch of the sugar industry and for operations performed on bagasse (cane from which the juice has been extracted) in Louisiana, as an industry of a seasonal nature, was proposed today in a finding made public by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. The South Coast Corporation, Carondelet Building, New Orleans, sought the exemption for that portion of the cane sugar processing and milling branch of the cane sugar industry in Louisiana. Harry L. Laws and Company, Inc., of New Orleans, and the Celotex Corporation at Marrero, near New Orleans, sought the exemption for operations performed on bagasse in connection with that branch of the industry. The Division found prima facie evidence that the applicants were entitled to the exemptions sought.

The exemption would include that branch of the industry engaged in the unloading of sugar cane from wagons and railroad cars onto conveyors; the processing of sugar cane into sugar, syrup and molasses, but not the refining of such sugar syrup and molasses; the removal, handling and conveying of raw sugar, syrup and molasses to storage, placing them in storage on or in the vicinity of the sugar mill site; the removal, conveying, burning, baling, and piling and storing in baled form on or in the vicinity of the sugar mill site, of bagasse; or incidental operations.

Provision is made in the announcement (Federal Register, October 27, 1939) for filing of objections during a 15-day period to the granting of exemption. On receipt of objection a hearing will be fixed before the Administrator or an

authorized representative. If no objection or request for hearing is received within 15 days, the Administrator will make a final finding, granting the exemption asked for. The applications may be examined at Room 313, 939 D Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

The exemption proposed, if granted, would permit employment of workers in this branch of the industry up to 12 hours a day and 56 hours a week, without the payment of overtime, for a period of 14 weeks a year.

This preliminary finding is issued without prejudice to the rights of sugar cane processors in other states who might desire to seek similar exemption, nor does it prejudice the rights of applicants under Section 7 (c) of the Act, which contains hours exemptions for certain operations performed on sugar cane.

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