

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

AMENDED APPRENTICE REGULATIONS STRESS TRAINING STANDARDS

Clarifying amendments to the regulations governing the employment of apprentices at less than the prescribed minimum wage rates, under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 were issued today by the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

The amended regulations (Federal Register, February 24, 1940) strengthen and make more definitive the requirements to be met by employers desiring to obtain from the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, a Special Certificate permitting the employment of apprentices at less than the minimum wage rate applicable under the Act.

Before making application for such a certificate, the employer or his authorized agent, is required, under the amended regulations, to obtain approval of the Apprenticeship Agreement under which the apprentice is employed, by the State apprenticeship council, or corresponding apprenticeship authority, provided such council or authority has been approved by the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship, U. S. Department of Labor, Washington, D. C.

If no such duly approved apprenticeship council or authority exists in the State, then the Apprenticeship Agreement must be approved by the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship.

The purpose of specifying that State apprenticeship councils must be approved by the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship before their recommendations can have official weight with the Wage and Hour Administrator, is to insure that the standards of apprenticeship training set by the State bodies, are equal or comparable to the standards set by the Federal Committee on Apprenticeship.

As formerly, the amended regulations define the term apprentice as a person at least sixteen years of age who is employed to learn a skilled trade pursuant to the terms of a written apprenticeship agreement with the employer, which agreement provides for not less than 4,000 hours of reasonably continuous employment for such person, for participation by the apprentice in an approved schedule of work experience through employment, and for at least 144 hours a year of supplemental instruction in classes, in subjects related to that trade.

If the apprenticeship agreement has been approved, as required, and the Administrator is satisfied after examination of the application and the agreement, that they comply with the regulations, and that not less than 4,000 hours of reasonably continuous employment is required to prepare a worker of normal ability for the skilled occupation designated in the Apprenticeship Agreement, he will issue a Special Certificate authorizing the employment of the named apprentice, at the rate or rates less than the minimum wage applicable under the Act, and for the length of time specified in the agreement.

Other changes in the amended regulations are minor verbal changes intended to simplify and clarify the rules governing the employment of apprentices at less than the minimum wage rates prescribed in the Act.

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