

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

MARYLAND LEAF TOBACCO SCHEDULED FOR SEASONAL EXEMPTION

The granting of a seasonal exemption from the hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the handling of Maryland leaf tobacco was indicated today when Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor, made public a preliminary finding to that effect.

The Administrator's action was taken on the application of the Maryland Tobacco Packing Company of Upper Marlboro, Maryland, and other interested parties.

As a "seasonal" industry, the buying, handling, sorting, grading, packing and storing of Maryland leaf tobacco (type 32, as defined by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture) may be carried on for twelve hours in any workday, or for fifty-six hours in any workweek, for a period aggregating fourteen workweeks in any calendar year, before the overtime provisions requiring payment of at least time and one-half the regular rate of pay became effective.

A prima facie case has been made for classifying this industry as seasonal in nature, but a fifteen-day period during which objections can be filed will elapse before a final determination is made by the Administrator. The exemption would not affect the requirement of paying not less than the minimum wage of thirty cents an hour. (Federal Register, May 9, 1940.)

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