

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

APPAREL QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

Employees working in a single workweek on products for which different minimum wage rates have been made mandatory in the Apparel Wage Order shall be paid at least at the highest of these rates throughout that workweek, a Wage and Hour Division statement said today. The same rule has applied to previous wage orders.

The Apparel Minimum Wage Order, effective July 15, 1940, establishes four hourly minimum wage rates (32-1/2 cents, 35 cents, 37-1/2 cents and 40 cents) for 25 divisions of the industry, and 30 cents an hour for apparel manufacture in Puerto Rico. The order was signed earlier this week by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Division.

The statement was released by the General Counsel of the Division, George A. McNulty. It said:

"Auxiliary employees, i. e., janitors, sweepers, clerical and shipping help, etc., are deemed to be necessary to the production of goods and consequently are covered by the wage rates stated below.

"In the event that any employee is engaged during a single workweek in an occupation or occupations necessary to the production of different garments which have been placed in different divisions of the Apparel Industry for which different minimum rates are established, the employee shall be paid at least at the highest of these rates throughout that workweek.

"The divisions of the Apparel Industry as defined in the Apparel Wage Orders are set forth below. Each division includes the manufacture of the garments specified and also parts used in production of such garments. For instance, the Men's and Boys' Clothing division includes the manufacture of parts of coats, top-coats and overcoats, as well as the manufacture of pants, vests and coats to be made parts of suits or tailored uniforms.

"The following terms used in the definitions of the divisions mean:

"'Children' refers to sizes of garments up to and including age 15, and when used in the Women's Wear group includes also infants' apparel.

"'Men's' includes youths'.

"'Women's' includes misses' and juniors'.

"'Pants' include trousers, breeches, knickers, men's and boys' slacks and shorts.

"'Single pants' are pants not made for use as part of a suit. Ordinarily, pants are not single pants if cut out of material which matches material from which the manufacturer is cutting, or causing to be cut, coats.

"'Odd outerwear' includes odd coats, vests and jackets, but does not include overall jackets made of the same material as the overalls with which they are ordinarily used.

"'Dressmakers' ensembles' include women's slacks, shorts, and shirt and short combinations. Comparable combination garments for men are covered by the rates established for single pants and shirts.

"'Scarfs' include sashes for wear around the waist or on the head. 'Similar garments' in the blouse, neckwear, shirtwaist and scarfs division of the apparel industry, include blouses, overblouses, boleros and halters.

"Each division applies exclusively to the manufacture of apparel, apparel furnishings and accessories. For instance, the manufacture of artificial flowers and feathers not for use as apparel, apparel furnishings or accessories is not within the Artificial Flowers and Feathers division."

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