

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

RICE STORING SCHEDULED FOR SEASONAL EXEMPTION

The granting of a seasonal exemption from the hours provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act for the movement to and receiving into storage of rough Southern rice 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 Committee of the Louisiana Rice Industry, and upon further investigation which disclosed that amounts in excess of 50 percent of all such Southern Rice (harvested mainly in Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas) are moved to and received into storage at mill warehouses or other warehouses during the harvesting season of approximately ten weeks.

As a "seasonal" industry, the moving to and receiving into storage of rough Southern rice may be carried on for twelve hours in any work day, or for fifty-six hours in any work-week, for a period aggregating fourteen work-weeks in any calendar year, before the overtime provisions requiring payment of at least time and one-half the regular rate of pay become 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, July 13, 1940)

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