

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

INACTIVE

NEW REGULATIONS EXPECTED TO BROADEN EMPLOYMENT OF LEARNERS
IN KNITTED WEAR INDUSTRY

Provisions for the employment of a greater number of learners, in factories producing knitted wear under defense contracts for the United States Government, than normally permitted are included in new regulations applicable to the employment of learners in that industry, issued today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U. S. Department of Labor. (Federal Register, October 10, 1940).

Regulations now in effect permit the employment of learners in a ratio of five percent of the total personnel employed in the knitted wear plant, with a maximum of five learners for plants employing less than one hundred workers. Under the new regulation employers whose plants are expanding to perform Government contracts will not be limited to this percentage.

The new regulations provide that employers are not required to go to neighboring communities in search of skilled labor before they are permitted to employ learners. They are required only to employ experienced workers when such workers are available in the communities from which the employer normally draws his factory force. Also when experienced workers become available after learners have been employed, the employer's certificate for learners may be only suspended for the duration of time when skilled workers are available instead of being cancelled, as at present.

Another modification included in the new regulations is that learners employed as knitters may work for a period of 480 hours at less than the statutory minimum wage provided in the wage order issued for the knitted wear industry, instead of 320 hours as is now the case.

The new regulations become effective immediately.

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