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

INACTIVE

LEARNER REGULATIONS ISSUED FOR ARTIFICIAL
FLOWER INDUSTRY

Regulations under which learners may be employed at 75 percent of the minimum rate in the making of artificial flowers and feathers were issued today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

The making of artificial flowers and feathers has been under two minimum rates -- 35 cents an hour under the apparel wage order when made for clothing, including millinery; and 30 cents an hour for home decorative use, store display, etc.

As a result there are two learner minimums in the industry -- 26-1/4 cents an hour on work under the apparel wage order and 22-1/2 cents an hour on other work.

The learner period is limited to 160 hours, and the maximum number of learners authorized to 15 percent of the experienced flower makers in a particular plant. In small establishments the number of learners which may be authorized is as follows:

Six or less flower makers -- two learners; seven to 14 flower makers -- three learners; 15 to 19 -- four learners; 20 and over -- as many as five, or 15 percent of the experienced flower makers in the plant, whichever is greater.

Certificates issued by the Division will authorize employment of learners at less than the minimum only in the occupation of flower making including the operations of slipping-up, heading, tying, pasting, rose making, branching and stemming. The Wage and Hour Division will send application forms for these certificates to any employers in the industry requesting them. Duration of certificates will be limited to a period of six weeks to coincide with spring and fall seasons in the industry. Certificates will only be issued where experienced workers are not available.

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