

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

ADMINISTRATOR ISSUES REGULATIONS FOR LEARNERS IN WOOLEN INDUSTRY

Regulations for the employment of learners in the woolen industry at rates less than the minimum rate of 36-cents per hour fixed by the woolen wage order were issued today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. (Federal Register October 30, 1940). The regulations are based on recommendations of Merle D. Vincent, Director of the Hearings Branch of the Division, who presided at a hearing on learners in the industry.

Learners may be employed at 30 cents an hour in two groups of occupations.

The learning period in Group A is a maximum of 320 hours for the occupations of mule piecer, drawer-in, percher, gill box tender, drawing machine tender, cap spinner, ring spinner, twister, spooler, sewer.

In Group B, the learner period is a maximum of 240 hours, and the occupations are chain builder, burler, drop wire hand, winder, and reeler.

Where experienced workers performing the same duties as learners in the employer's plant are paid piece work rates, learners shall be paid the same piece work rates and piece rate earnings if in excess of 30 cents an hour.

Special certificates may be issued as follows:

1. Authorizing the employment of learners to the number of three percent of the total number of production workers employed in a particular establishment, provided that a minimum of two learners may be authorized in any one certificate.
2. To employers operating in new and expanding plants, permitting the employment of a number of learners in excess of three percent of the total number of production workers in the establishment. A "new" plant is defined as one which is

newly established and being operated for the first time, or which has not been operating more than eight months, and in which a substantial number of workers must be trained for operations on products of the plant. An "expanding" plant is one which is being expanded by the installation of additional mechanical equipment or other production facilities.

3. To employers whose plants are operating on Government contract production required by the National Defense Program, authorizing the employment of learners in excess of three percent of the total number of production workers in the establishment, to the extent that such employment of learners is necessary to meet production needs resulting from said Government contract production.

Special certificates authorizing the employment of learners at subminimum rates shall not be issued to employers if experienced workers are available in the area from which the employer customarily draws his supply of labor.

Investigation of local labor market conditions when necessary shall be made with the cooperation of public employment offices, employers' associations, trade unions and by field investigations of the Wage and Hour Division.

Separate special certificates must be obtained for each plant operated by a company.

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