

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION  
PUBLIC CONTRACTS DIVISION  
165 W. 46th St.  
New York, N. Y.

AMENDMENT TO WALSH-HEALEY ACT FURTHER STEP IN BRINGING  
ACCORD WITH WAGE-HOUR LAW, WALLING

Presidential signature making effective an amendment to the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act providing partial overtime exemptions under certain circumstances was described today by L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of both the Public Contracts Act and the Fair Labor Standards Act, as another step toward bringing the two laws into accord.

Mr. Walling explained that the amendment provides that overtime provisions of the Public Contracts Act may only be relaxed when employers and employees operate under agreements with unions certified by the National Labor Relations Board as bona fide limiting employees to 1,000 hours of work during any period of 26 consecutive weeks or providing for employment on an annual basis of not more than 2,080 hours during any period of 52 consecutive weeks. These provisions, he pointed out, already exist under the Wage-Hour Law. Now both laws will permit the employment of workers covered by such agreements for as much as 12 hours in any workday or up to 56 hours in any workweek before payment of overtime at the rate of time and one-half must be made.

Except in the case of such agreements, the Walsh-Healey Act requires the payment of time and one-half for work in excess of eight hours in any one day or 40 hours in any one week, while the Wage-Hour Law requires that employees be paid time and one-half their regular rate for work in excess of 40 hours in any one workweek.

The amendment, which was supported by the Administrator, follows recent administrative action he took in bringing wage, learner and handicapped worker requirements and other provisions of the two laws into closer accord. Both the Division of Public Contracts and the Wage and Hour Division are in the U. S. Department of Labor.

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