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WAGE-HOUR LEARNER REGULATIONS AMENDED

Amendments to the general regulations governing the employment of learners were issued today by L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage-Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

Under the amended regulations, which become effective June 25, learners must be listed on the employer's payroll in a separate group. Records of any experience they may have had within the previous five years must be kept by the employer in the form of individual statements signed by the learners. No certificate issued by the Administrator may authorize the employment of learners in more than one plant. In case of a serious violation, learner certificates shall be cancelled by the Administrator.

Amendments to special learner regulations for the Single Pants, Shirts and Allied Garments and Women's Apparel Industries, also issued today, provide that learners may be employed in certain occupations at rates lower than 40 cents an hour.

According to the regulations, which become effective July 20, special certificates authorizing the employment of learners in these industries may be issued by the Administrator when it appears that experienced workers are not available and that the employment of learners will not create unfair labor cost advantages or depress working standards established for experienced workers.

Certificates may be issued for learners in the following occupations: machine operating (except cutting), pressing, handsewing, and finishing operations involving handsewing. Provisions prescribing the number of learners permitted, the duration of the learning period, and minimum rates of pay varying between 25 and 32½ cents per hour are included in the regulations.

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