

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
165 West 46th Street
New York 19, New York

inactive

Abnormal labor turnover, caused by shifting of workers into war industries, resulted today in regulations under which certificates may be issued for the employment of learners in the cigar industry at less than the minimum wage rate. The action was announced by L. Metcalfe Walling, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor.

In addition to establishing a normal labor turnover learner allowance of 10 percent of the number of experienced workers in an occupation, the regulations permit issuance of certificates to the extent of need in cases of abnormal labor turnover. Employers seeking such certificates must show, among other things, that experienced workers are not available, and, for the duration, that learners are available for employment at the subminimum rate, and that the average rates for experienced workers in the plant are substantially above the minimum. Special certificates may also be issued to new or expanding plants.

Subminimum rates and learning periods are set at 30 cents an hour for a 320 hour training period in cigar machine operating; 30 cents an hour for the first 480 hours and 35 cents an hour for the second 480 hours of a 960 hour learning period in hand rolling and hand bunch making; 30 cents an hour for 320 hours and 35 cents an hour for an additional 320 hours for the making of Italian stogies; 30 cents an hour for 160 hours in the occupations of hand and machine stripping; and 30 cents an hour for 160 hours in packing cigars retailing at 6 cents or less and 320 hours for packing of cigars retailing for more than 6 cents.

Application forms for these certificates may be obtained from any office of the Wage and Hour Division.