

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions
Washington 25, D. C.

*Am release
files.
♀*

EMPLOYERS CAUTIONED TO ABIDE BY CHILD LABOR LAWS

With most of the nation's schools due to open within a few days, employers who hire children on either a full-time or a part-time basis were cautioned today to abide by specific Federal regulations applying to the employment of minors in plants producing goods for interstate commerce.

The warning was issued by F. Granville Grimes, Jr., Deputy Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

Grimes explained that under the Fair Labor Standards Act, the minimum age for general employment is 16 years while 14- and 15-year-old youngsters may be employed only outside school hours and subject to stringent regulations.

For example, he pointed out that employment of 14- and 15-year-old youngsters is limited to three hours on school days and eight hours on non-school days and a maximum of 18 hours during the weeks school is in session and 40 hours in other weeks.

Generally, he said all work performed by 14- and 15-year-old children must be done between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. They may not be employed at any time in covered establishments in manufacturing, mining or processing occupations. They may not operate or tend power-driven machinery other than office machines; they may not be employed in public-messenger service; and they may not be employed in occupations declared to be hazardous for minors 16 and 17 years old.

Occupations determined to be hazardous by the Secretary of Labor and in which the minimum age for employment under the Fair Labor Standards Act is 18 years are given below:

Most occupations connected with explosive plants; motor vehicle drivers and helpers; coal mining; logging and sawmilling; operation of wood-cutting machines; occupations involving exposure to radioactive substances; and operation of power-driven hoisting apparatus.

For their own protection, the Deputy Administrator urged all employers to have on file age certificates for all employees under 18 years of age and for those claiming to be 18 or 19 who are employed in hazardous occupations.

He also urged employers to become familiar with their State child labor laws, since, in any given State, regulations setting the higher standard, whether State or Federal, prevail. He suggested that they write their State Department of Labor for such information.

#####