

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

MCCOMB ANNOUNCES NEW PUERTO RICAN INDUSTRY MINIMUM WAGE ORDER, EFFECTIVE MARCH 22

Effective March 22, the Leather and Skin Products Industry in Puerto Rico will operate under a new Fair Labor Standards Act wage order which establishes a separate classification for certain hand operations in the industry.

Adoption of the new wage order was announced today by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

The order will establish a 17-cents-an-hour minimum wage for hand-sewing or hand-lacing operations, the new classification, and will continue the present 40-cents-an-hour minimum wage for all other operations in the industry. The official designation of the industry in the wage order is "The Leather and Skin Products Division of the Leather, Textile, Rubber, Straw, and Related Products Industries in Puerto Rico."

McComb issued the new wage order on the basis of recommendations made to him by an industry committee which he had appointed to re-examine conditions in 14 industries in Puerto Rico. The committee, composed in equal numbers of representatives of employers, employees, and the general public, met on the island last summer. Under special provision of the Wage and Hour Law, minimum wage rates lower than the statutory 40-cents-an-hour minimum set by the Act for the continental United States may be established for Puerto Rican industries.

A public hearing on the committee's recommendation which resulted in the order announced today was held by the Administrator in Washington on December 18, last. Hearings also have been held on recommendations of the committee for the other industries studied, and announcement of the Administrator's action on these is to be made in the near future.

(Copies of the wage order announced today may be had upon request.)

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