

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

NEW WAGE ORDERS FOR TWO PUERTO RICAN INDUSTRIES PROPOSED BY MCCOMB

Notice of his intention to adopt new minimum wage orders for two industries in Puerto Rico was announced today by Wm. R. McComb, Administrator of the Wage and Hour and Public Contracts Divisions, U. S. Department of Labor.

The wage orders would apply to some 5,000 employees in the industries officially designated as the "Wholesaling, Warehousing, and Other Distribution Industries" and to about 1,300 employees in the "Hooked Rug Industry."

The wholesaling, etc., employees would receive 40 cents an hour instead of the present 35 cents. In the other industry, employees making hand-hooked rugs would receive 18 cents an hour, instead of the present 15 cents, for hand-tufting and hand-sewing operations, and 27 cents an hour, instead of the present 24 cents, for all others operations. In addition, a rate of 40 cents an hour would be provided for the machine-hooked rug division of the industry.

Texts of the proposed wage orders, and the findings and opinions upon which they are based, are published today in the Federal Register. Interested parties are given 15 days in which to file exceptions and supporting reasons, in quadruplicate, with the Administrator in Washington, D. C.

The Administrator's action today follows a public hearing at which interested parties were afforded an opportunity to express their views on the recommendations of an industry committee which studied conditions in the industries last summer. Under a special provision in the Wage and Hour Law, it is possible to establish minimum wage rates for Puerto Rican industries lower than the 40-cents-an-hour minimum which prevails for the continental United States.

The proposed effective date in the wage orders is May 24. At the expiration of the 15-day period of notice begun today, the Administrator will give notice of his final action.

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