

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
Washington

INACTIVE

INCREASE FOR 4400 WORKERS IN EMBROIDERY ESTABLISHMENTS

An order directing payment of at least $37\frac{1}{2}$ cents an hour to workers engaged in the making of embroidery was issued today by Colonel Philip B. Fleming, Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division, U. S. Department of Labor. The order goes into effect January 27, 1941.

Some 4,400 of the 14,250 embroidery workers employed in establishments doing embroidery, binding and trimming will receive hourly wage rate increases under this order. These figures do not include many workers doing embroidery work in their homes in the production of goods for interstate commerce, who are also covered by the wage order.

The definition of the embroideries industry to which the order applies is:

"For the purpose of this order the term 'embroideries industry' means: The production of all kinds of hand and machine-made embroideries and ornamental stitchings, including, but not by way of limitation, tucking, shirring, smocking, hemstitching, hand rolling, fagoting, bonnaz embroidery, applique, crochet beading, hand drawing, machine drawing, rhinestone trimming, sequin trimming, spangle trimming, eyelets, passementerie, pleating, the application of rhinestone and nailheads, Schiffli embroidery and laces, burnt-out laces and velvets, Swiss hand loom machine embroidery, thread splitting, embroidery thread cutting, scallop cutting, lace cutting, lace making-up, making-up of embroidered yard goods, straight cutting of embroidery and cutting out of embroidery, embroidery trimmings, bindings, pipings, and emblems; provided, however, that (1) the foregoing when produced or performed by a manufacturer of a garment, fabric or other article for use on such garment, fabric or other article, and (2) the manufacture of covered buttons and buckles, shall not be included."

The definition of the Embroideries Industry covers all occupations in the industry which are necessary to the production of the embroideries specified in the definition including clerical, maintenance, shipping and selling occupations.

"Only the production of separate embroidery establishments is covered by the definition," Colonel Fleming explained. "Not covered are embroideries 'produced or performed by a manufacturer of a garment, fabric or other article for use on such garment, fabric, or other article.' As an illustration, when a manufacturer of infants' and children's outerwear has embroidery work done by his own employees, such embroidery is not covered by the definition. If, however, he has the work done by a separate embroidery manufacturer that production is included under the Embroideries Industry definition. The manufacture of covered buttons and buckles is excluded from this definition because it is included in the Apparel Wage Order."

The 37½ cent minimum wage was recommended by a committee, under the chairmanship of Max Meyer of New York, which investigated the economic and competitive conditions in this branch of the needlework industry.

The wage order requires posting of a notice embodying its terms in all covered establishments. Copies of this notice will be supplied by the Wage and Hour Division.

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