



IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PREVAILING WAGE RATE PUBLICATION AND THE ADDITION OF CERTAIN PREMIUM PAYS TO THE APPENDIX

Each year, the Bureau of Labor and Industries publishes the *Prevailing Wage Rates for Public Works Contracts in Oregon*. Prevailing wage rate (PWR) booklets are published twice a year, usually in January and July. Amendments to the rates are generally published twice a year, in April and October.

To assist in determining the correct rates to use, BOLI includes instructions (“HOW TO LOOK UP A RATE”) at the front of each rate booklet. Steps 1-4 ask when the project was first advertised for bid; what type of work is being performed by the worker on site; what region the work is being performed; and instruct the user to use the region rate if there is a rate listed next to the classification.

Step 5 indicates that if the region portion of the rate book directs the user to “See Appendix,” then the rate listed in the Appendix section is the correct rate to use.

The rates found in the Appendix section of the PWR rate booklet are collectively bargained rates to be used in those regions of the state in which the union rates prevail. In the past, these rates have often included a group number, zone pay, or hazard pay. As of the January 1, 2016 publication, BOLI will include additional premium pays, such as shift differential, when such rates are expressed in a prevailing union’s collective bargaining agreement as a specifically defined hourly rate of pay. When directed to include a premium pay, the hourly amount must be added to the base rate.

For example - Assuming the January 2016 PWR rate publication applies to a specific public works:

In looking for the correct rate in Morrow County (Region 12) for Highway Striper, one will be directed to “See Appendix.” As of January 1, 2016, below the rate posted for Highway/Parking Striper (\$33.43 base rate and \$11.20 fringe benefit rate), is a note for Shift Differential: “Add \$1.50 to base rate for shifts that start between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 a.m.”

If the highway striper begins work at 3:30 p.m. (Monday through Friday), the employer must add \$1.50 to the \$33.43 base rate. The base hourly rate would now be \$34.93 per hour, while the fringe benefit rate would continue to be \$11.20 per hour.

Similar changes have been noted under “Electrician” in areas 3, 4, 5 and 6; “Drywall Taper;” “Plasterer and Stucco Mason;” “Plumber/Pipefitter/Steamfitter” (Area 2); “Power Equipment Operator;” and “Sheet Metal Worker” (Area 2).

If you have any questions related to the PWR rates, please do not hesitate to contact us at pwremail@boli.state.or.us or by calling (971) 673-0839.

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