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BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

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In January and July of each year, the Bureau of Labor and Industries publishes the prevailing wage rates that are required to be paid to workers on non-residential public works projects in the state of Oregon. Quarterly updates are published in April and October.

A separate publication, entitled "[*Definitions of Covered Occupations for Public Works Contracts in Oregon*](#)," provides occupational definitions used to classify the duties performed on public works projects.

These publications are available electronically on the bureau's website at www.oregon.gov/boli. In order to contain costs and preserve limited budget resources, BOLI is no longer automatically mailing copies of these publications to contracting agencies, contractors, and other interested parties. Those on the agency's mailing list will receive a postcard notification whenever the publications are amended in the future. One complimentary hard copy of each PWR publication is available upon request by emailing BOLI at pwremail@boli.state.or.us or calling 971-673-0838. Additional copies are available at cost, plus postage.

Also available on the bureau's website is a link to the federal Davis-Bacon rates. This link is posted in order to assist contractors and public agencies in determining which rates to pay on projects in Oregon subject to BOTH the state PWR and federal Davis-Bacon Act. The higher of the wage rates must be paid on such projects.

Unless specifically exempted by state law, prevailing wage rates are the minimum wages that must be paid to all workers employed on all public works. These rates are determined using data collected from a statewide construction industry wage survey of occupations and crafts performing commercial building and heavy and highway construction in 14 geographic regions of the state.

ORS 279C.830 requires that the applicable wage rates be incorporated into all bid specifications for public works contracts subject to the PWR law. A statement incorporating the applicable prevailing wage rate publication and any amendments thereto or Davis-Bacon wage rate determination into the specifications *by reference* will satisfy these requirements. Such reference must include the title of the applicable wage rates publication or determination and the date of the publication or determination as well as the date of any applicable amendments. A provision that prevailing wage rates must be paid must also appear in the contract.

Generally, the rates in effect at the time the bid specifications are first advertised are those that apply for the duration of the project. There are some exceptions to this rule. For example, if during the bidding process, the prevailing wage rates change, the public agency has the option of amending the bid specifications to reflect such changes. If a Construction Manager/General Contractor (CM/GC) is used on the project, the rates in effect at the time the CM/GC contract becomes a public works contract are the applicable rates to be used for the duration of the project. (See OAR 839-025-0020 for more information.) Note that the applicable rates for purposes of compliance with the federal Davis-Bacon Act may be different than the applicable rates for purposes of compliance with Oregon's prevailing wage rate laws. The effective federal rates will be those as determined under 29 CFR 1.6.

If you have any questions regarding application of the state PWR law or the applicable rates to be paid on any project, contact the bureau's Prevailing Wage Coordinator in Portland at (971) 673-0839.

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