

State Officer Says Labor Law Applies To Log Industry

Statement Released by Commissioner of Labor Shuford

The new "forestry or logging" operations exemption under the Federal Wage and Hour Law is an exemption from the law's minimum wage and overtime provisions, but not an exemption from the law's child labor provisions.

This fact was emphasized today in a special statement received from Forest H. Shuford, North Carolina Commissioner of Labor, who administers the Wage-Hour Law in this state under a special agreement with the Federal Wage and Hour Administration.

In his statement Shuford explained that most sawmilling and lumbering operations in North Carolina are covered by the Wage and Hour Law which, following the amendments which became effective on January 25, requires payment of at least 75 cents an hour to all covered workers and time-and-a-half pay for hours worked in excess of 40 per week.

"The provisions of this Federal Law apply to all establishments which are covered," Commissioner Shuford said. "Sawmills and lumbering establishments which produce or process materials which eventually move in interstate commerce are covered. It has been our experience that this law covers the great majority of sawmill and lumbering operations throughout the state. In cases where the product is sold to another party who, in turn, sells it out of the State either directly or after it has undergone further processing, then the original sawmill or lumbering establishment also is covered by the Wage and Hour Law."

The Labor Commissioner explained that workers engaged in forestry or logging operations in which not more than 12 workers are employed by the same employer are exempt from the minimum wage and overtime provisions of the law, but not from the child labor provisions. The exemption applies only to woods operations, he said, and does not apply to work in sawmills.

"Employers of 12 or less workers engaged in exempt forestry or logging work should remember that the child labor provisions of the Wage and Hour Law remain in effect at all times," Commissioner Shuford pointed out. "This means that employers of forestry or logging crews must continue to observe the Wage-Hour Law provisions which set a minimum age of 18 years for all woods jobs except those which are not declared to be hazardous for young workers."

"The non-hazardous jobs in logging operations—for which the Wage-Hour Law sets a minimum age of 16 years—include timber cruising; transit man, rod man, and chain man in surveying parties; some types of repair or maintenance jobs; work around a cook house; removing of bark from logs, if done away from hazardous work; fire patrolman or look-out; stableman or hostler, and office work."

Commissioner Shuford added that employers may protect themselves from unintentional child labor violations by having on hand employment certificates showing that young workers in their employ are above the legal age required for the jobs they hold. These employment certificates may be secured from the local County Welfare Superintendent, he said.

Clarification of the law's provisions was given by Commissioner Shuford today in a special statement received from Forest H. Shuford, North Carolina Commissioner of Labor, who administers the Wage-Hour Law in this state under a special agreement with the Federal Wage and Hour Administration.

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POCAHONTAS MEETING

Chowanoke Council, No. 54, Degree of Pocahontas, will meet in regular session Friday night in the Red Men's hall at 8 o'clock. Mrs. Horace White, Pocahontas, urges all members to be present.

BIBLE CLASS MEETS TUESDAY

The Woman's Bible Class of the Baptist Church will meet next Tuesday night at 7:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Raymond Mansfield. Mrs. Charles Small, president of the class, is very anxious that all members attend.



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