



Connecticut Chapter

October 28, 2013

Good Morning,

Thank you to Senator Osten, Peter Tercyak and the members of the Labor Committee for this valuable hearing.

In general, Connecticut Associated Builders and Contractors supports State established minimum wages (prevailing wage) for public construction projects. There are areas, however, of prevailing wage law that we find challenging - both to the employer and the employee - and believe could be changed without diluting the effectiveness or intent of the law.

Currently, prevailing wages are not usually calculated as the law intended. Surveys are supposed to be done frequently averaging both union and open shop wages. We support annual surveys to establish an accurate and appropriate wage scale.

Also, the state mandates an increase to the prevailing wages annually every July 1. This makes estimating/bidding public jobs difficult as at on the bid date, what wages will be owed to employees is unknown. Non-union firms need a way to estimate the increase at the bid time. One suggestion is to establish a fixed increase instead of relying on the new union contracts.

Another issue that CT ABC has been working on with the Labor Committee for a number of years is that of double jeopardy. If a GC or CM subcontracts for a portion of the work, collects all the certified prevailing wage forms from the subs, but later is notified that the sub falsified his certified prevailing wage forms and never actually paid his employees properly, the GC, even if he paid the sub in full, is still liable to make the employees whole. At the very least, CT ABC would like the DOL to notice the GC/CM when they first become aware of a possible issue with a subcontractor. There also needs to be an established paperwork or audit process, that when followed by a GC/CM, fulfills their obligation to the subcontractor and their employees.

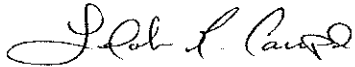
CT ABC recommends changing the thresholds for when prevailing wage rates are in effect. Currently there are two thresholds, one at \$100,000 for project renovations and a second at \$400,000 for new construction projects. We believe there should be one threshold set at \$1,000,000 and indexed every two years, on the even years, with the price of inflation.

Another area of concern is employees performing work and paying into benefit funds don't always get the benefit of the funds. This amounts to a great deal of money as currently in 2013 benefits average over \$23 per hour for Hartford, CT. Those funds need to be protected for the exclusive use of the employee paying into that fund. This can be achieved by requiring that all benefit funds, annuities, health insurance,

etc. must be 100% vested for each and every employee, from the first dollar earned, on every prevailing wage project.


Last, we recommend that many classifications that currently exist for prevailing wage need to be broadened to allow for modern methods of blended job descriptions. Gone are the days when a worker performs work in one classification for an entire career. Construction careers currently allow workers to cross-train and broaden their skills and marketability. However, prevailing wages still use the same work classifications from years ago. Broadened classifications would simplify the reporting process and increase compliance as well.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lelah M. Campo".

Lelah M. Campo,
President

Opportunity * Guidance + Support



Prevailing Wage Rates System

Annual Adjusted July 1st Rates

[DOL Web Site](#) ○ [Wage and Workplace Issues](#) ○ [Wage Rates](#) ○ [Building Rates - Hartford](#)

Building Rates - Hartford (effective July 1, 2013)

Classification	Hourly Rate	Benefits
1a) Asbestos Worker/Insulator (Includes application of insulating materials, protective coverings, coatings, & finishes to all types of mechanical systems; application of firestopping material for wall openings & penetrations in walls, floors, ceilings	\$35.00	27.41
1b) Asbestos/Toxic Waste Removal Laborers: Asbestos removal and encapsulation (except its removal from mechanical systems which are not to be scrapped), toxic waste removers, blasters.**See Laborers Group 7**		
2) Boilermaker	\$35.24	25.01
3a) Bricklayer, Cement Mason, Concrete Finisher (including caulking), Stone Masons	\$32.50	26.21 + a
3b) Tile Setter	\$32.94	22.42
3c) Terrazzo Mechanics and Marble Setters	\$31.69	22.35
3d) Tile, Marble & Terrazzo Finishers	\$26.25	19.20
3e) Plasterer	\$32.50	26.21
-----LABORERS-----		
4) Group 1: Laborers (common or general), acetylene burners, carpenter tenders, concrete specialists, wrecking laborers, fire watchers.	\$26.40	17.15
4a) Group 2: Mortar mixers, plaster tender, power buggy operators, powdermen, fireproofers/mixer/nozzleman, fence erector.	\$26.65	17.15
4b) Group 3: Jackhammer Operators/Pavement Breaker, mason tender (brick) and mason tender (cement/concrete)	\$26.90	17.15
4c) **Group 4: Pipelayers (Installation of water, storm drainage or sewage lines outside of the building line with P6, P7 license) (the pipelayer rate shall apply only to one or two employees of the total crew who primary task is to actually perform the m	\$26.65	17.15
4d) Group 5: Air track operators, Sand blasters	\$27.15	17.15
4e) Group 6: Nuclear toxic waste removers, blasters	\$29.40	17.15
4f) Group 7: Asbestos/lead removal and encapsulation (except it's removal from mechanical systems which are not to be scrapped)	\$27.40	17.15
4g) Group 8: Bottom men on open air caisson, cylindrical work and boring crew	\$26.90	17.15
4h) Group 9: Top men on open air caisson, cylindrical work and boring crew	\$26.40	17.15
4i) Group 10: Traffic Control Signalman	\$16.00	17.15
5) Carpenter, Acoustical Ceiling Installation, Soft Floor/Carpet Laying, Metal Stud Installation, Form Work and Scaffold Building, Drywall Hanging, Modular-Furniture Systems Installers, Lathers, Piledrivers, Resilient Floor Layers.	\$30.45	21.65
5a) Millwrights	\$30.78	22.15
	\$37.60	

6) Electrical Worker (including low voltage wiring) (Trade License required: E1,2 L-5,6 C-5,6 T-1,2 L-1,2 V-1,2,7,8,9)		22.22+3% of gross wage
7a) Elevator Mechanic (Trade License required: R-1,2,5,6)	\$46.41	25.185+a+b
-----LINE CONSTRUCTION-----		
Groundman	\$24.99	6.5% + 9.75
Linemen/Cable Splicer	\$45.43	6.5% + 16.20
8) Glazier (Trade License required: FG-1,2)	\$34.18	17.75
9) Ironworker, Ornamental, Reinforcing, Structural, and Precast Concrete Erection	\$33.50	28.98
-----OPERATORS-----		
Group 1: Crane handling or erecting structural steel or stone, hoisting engineer 2 drums or over, front end loader (7 cubic yards or over); work boat 26 ft. and over. (Trade License Required)	\$36.05	21.55 + a
Group 2: Cranes (100 ton rate capacity and over); Backhoe/Excavator over 2 cubic yards; Piledriver (\$3.00 premium when operator controls hammer). (Trade License Required)	\$35.73	21.55 + a
Group 3: Excavator; Backhoe/Excavator under 2 cubic yards; Cranes (under 100 ton rated capacity), Grader/Blade; Master Mechanic; Hoisting Engineer (all types of equipment where a drum and cable are used to hoist or drag material regardless of motive pow	\$34.99	21.55 + a
Group 4: Trenching Machines; Lighter Derrick; Concrete Finishing Machine; CMI Machine or Similar; Koehring Loader (Skooper).	\$34.60	21.55 + a
Group 5: Specialty Railroad Equipment; Asphalt Paver; Asphalt Reclaiming Machine; Line Grinder; Concrete Pumps; Drills with Self Contained Power Units; Boring Machine; Post Hole Digger; Auger; Pounder; Well Digger; Milling Machine (over 24" Mandrell)	\$34.01	21.55 + a
Group 5 continued: Side Boom; Combination Hoe and Loader; Directional Driller; Pile Testing Machine.	\$34.01	21.55 + a
Group 6: Front End Loader (3 up to 7 cubic yards); Bulldozer (rough grade dozer).	\$33.70	21.55 + a
Group 7: Asphalt roller, concrete saws and cutters (ride on types), vermeer concrete cutter, Stump Grinder; Scraper; Snooper; Skidder; Milling Machine (24" and under Mandrell).	\$33.36	21.55 + a
Group 8: Mechanic, grease truck operator, hydroblaster; barrier mover; power stone spreader; welding; work boat under 26 ft.; transfer machine.	\$32.96	21.55 + a
Group 9: Front end loader (under 3 cubic yards), skid steer loader regardless of attachments, (Bobcat or Similar); forklift, power chipper; landscape equipment (Including Hydroseeder).	\$32.53	21.55 + a
Group 10: Vibratory hammer; ice machine; diesel and air, hammer, etc.	\$30.49	21.55 + a
Group 11: Conveyor, earth roller, power pavement breaker (whiphammer), robot demolition equipment.	\$30.49	21.55 + a
Group 12: Wellpoint operator.	\$30.43	21.55 + a
Group 13: Compressor battery operator.	\$29.85	21.55 + a
Group 14: Elevator operator; tow motor operator (solid tire no rough terrain).	\$28.71	21.55 + a
Group 15: Generator Operator; Compressor Operator; Pump Operator; Welding Machine Operator; Heater Operator.	\$28.30	21.55 + a
Group 16: Maintenance Engineer/Oiler.	\$27.65	21.55 + a
Group 17: Portable asphalt plant operator; portable crusher plant operator; portable concrete plant operator.	\$31.96	21.55 + a
Group 18: Power safety boat; vacuum truck; zim mixer; sweeper; (Minimum for any job requiring a CDL license).	\$29.54	21.55 + a
-----PAINTERS (Including Drywall Finishing)-----		
10a) Brush and Roller	\$30.62	17.75
10b) Taping Only/Drywall Finishing	\$31.37	17.75
10c) Paperhanger and Red Label	\$31.12	17.75

10e) Blast and Spray	\$33.62	17.75
11) Plumber (excluding HVAC pipe installation) (Trade License required: P-1,2,6,7,8,9 J-1,2,3,4 SP-1,2)	\$39.31	26.27
12) Well Digger, Pile Testing Machine	\$33.01	19.40 + a
13) Roofer (composition)	\$31.70	17.36
14) Roofer (slate & tile)	\$32.20	17.36
15) Sheetmetal Worker (Trade License required for HVAC and Ductwork: SM-1,SM-2,SM-3,SM-4,SM-5,SM-6)	\$33.84	31.18
16) Pipefitter (Including HVAC work) (Trade License required: S-1,2,3,4,5,6,7,8 B-1,2,3,4 D-1,2,3,4, G-1, G-2, G-8 & G-9)	\$39.31	26.27
-----TRUCK DRIVERS-----		
17a) 2 Axle	\$27.88	18.27 + a
17b) 3 Axle, 2 Axle Ready Mix	\$27.98	18.27 + a
17c) 3 Axle Ready Mix	\$28.03	18.27 + a
17d) 4 Axle, Heavy Duty Trailer up to 40 tons	\$28.08	18.27 + a
17e) 4 Axle Ready Mix	\$28.13	18.27 + a
17f) Heavy Duty Trailer (40 Tons and Over)	\$28.33	18.27 + a
17g) Specialized Earth Moving Equipment (Other Than Conventional Type on-the-Road Trucks and Semi-Trailers, Including Euclids)	\$28.13	18.27 + a
18) Sprinkler Fitter (Trade License required: F-1,2,3,4)	\$38.98	19.87 + a
19) Theatrical Stage Journeyman		6.53

Welders: Rate for craft to which welding is incidental.

*Note: Hazardous waste removal work receives additional \$1.25 per hour for truck drivers.

**Note: Hazardous waste premium \$3.00 per hour over classified rate.

- Crane with boom including jib, 150 feet - \$1.50 extra.
- Crane with boom including jib, 200 feet - \$2.50 extra.
- Crane with boom including jib, 250 feet - \$5.00 extra.
- Crane with boom including jib, 300 feet - \$7.00 extra.
- Crane with boom including jib, 400 feet - \$10.00 extra.

~ ~ ~ All classifications that indicate a percentage of the fringe benefits must be calculated at the percentage rate times the "base hourly rate".

Apprentices duly registered under the Commissioner of Labor's regulations on "Work Training Standards for Apprenticeship and Training Programs" Section 31-51-d-1 to 12, are allowed to be paid the appropriate percentage of the prevailing journeymen hourly base and the full fringe benefit rate, providing the work site ratio shall not be less than one full-time journeyman instructing and supervising the work of one apprentice in a specific trade.

~~Connecticut General Statute Section 31-55a: Annual Adjustments to wage rates by contractors doing state work~~

The Prevailing wage rates applicable to this project are subject to annual adjustments each July 1st for the duration of the project.

Each contractor shall pay the annual adjusted prevailing wage rate that is in effect each July 1st, as posted by the Department of Labor.

It is the contractor's responsibility to obtain the annual adjusted prevailing wage rate increases directly from the Department of Labor's website.

The annual adjustments will be posted on the Department of Labor's Web page: www.ctdol.state.ct.us.

The Department of Labor will continue to issue the initial prevailing wage rate schedule to the Contracting Agency for the project.

All subsequent annual adjustments will be posted on our Web Site for contractor access.

Effective October 1, 2005 - Public Act 05-50: any person performing the work of any mechanic, laborer, or worker shall be paid prevailing wage.

All Persons who perform work ON SITE must be paid prevailing wage for the appropriate mechanic, laborer, or worker classification.

All certified payrolls must list the hours worked and wages paid to All Persons who perform work ON SITE regardless of their ownership i.e.: (Owners, Corporate Officers, LLC Members, Independent Contractors, et. al)

Reporting and payment of wages is required regardless of any contractual relationship alleged to exist between the contractor and such person.

~~Unlisted classifications needed for work not included within the scope of the classifications listed may be added after award only as provided in the labor standards contract clause (29 CFR 5.5 (a) (1) (ii)).

Please direct any questions which you may have pertaining to classification of work and payment of prevailing wages to the Wage and Workplace Standards Division, telephone (860)263-6790.

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