

Bureau of Public Work

A Guide For Contracting Agencies

Responsibilities of the Contracting Agency

A Contracting Agency (Department of Jurisdiction) includes:

- A state department, agency, board or commission
- A county, city, town, or village
- A school district, board of education or board of cooperative educational services
- A sewer, water, fire, improvement and other district corporation
- A public benefit corporation
- A public authority awarding a public work contract

The Contracting Agency awarding a public work contract **must** obtain a Prevailing Rate Schedule listing the hourly rates of wages and supplements due the workers employed on a public work project. To obtain a schedule, submit by mail, fax, or online, a “Request for Wage and Supplement Information” form (PW-39) to the Bureau of Public Work. The Prevailing Rate Schedule must be included in the specifications for the contract to be awarded and is deemed part of the public work contract.

After the award of a contract, by law the Contracting Agency **must** furnish the following information to the Bureau:

- The name and address of the contractor,
- The date the contract was let, and
- The approximate dollar value of the contract.

To aid compliance with this provision of the Labor Law, a copy of the Department of Labor’s “Notice of Contract Award” form (PW-16) is included with the original Prevailing Rate Schedule, and can also be submitted online.

The Contracting Agency must notify the Bureau of the completion or cancellation of any public work project. The Department of Labor’s “Notice of Completion/Cancellation of Project” form (PW-200) is included with the original Prevailing Rate Schedule, and can also be submitted online.

Hours

No laborer, worker, or mechanic in the employ of a contractor or subcontractor engaged in the performance of any public work project shall be permitted to work more than eight hours in any day or more than five days in any week, except in cases of extraordinary emergency.

The contractor and Contracting Agency may apply to the Bureau of Public Work for a dispensation permitting workers to work additional hours or days per week on a particular work project. A dispensation **MUST** be in place in order to use any ‘4 Day/10 Hour’ rates that may appear in the contract’s assigned Prevailing Rate Schedule.

Prevailing Rate Schedule

The Contracting Agency must provide complete copies of the Prevailing Rate Schedule to all prime contractors. They, in turn, must provide copies to each subcontractor and obtain an affidavit certifying the schedule was received.



The Commissioner of Labor makes an annual determination of the prevailing rates. This determination is in effect from July 1 through June 30 of the following year. All assigned Prevailing Rate Schedules automatically update to the newly determined annual rates on July 1.

Both the annual determination and the updated assigned Prevailing Rate Schedules are available on the Department of Labor web site: **www.labor.ny.gov**

Payrolls and Payroll Records

Every contractor and subcontractor must keep original payrolls or transcripts subscribed and affirmed as true under penalty of perjury.

At a minimum, payrolls must show the following information for each person employed on a public work project:

- Name
- Social Security Number
- Classification(s) in which the worker was employed
- Hourly wage rate(s) paid
- Supplements paid or provided
- Daily and weekly number of hours worked in each classification

Every contractor and subcontractor shall submit to the Contracting Agency, within thirty (30) days after issuance of its first payroll and every thirty (30) days thereafter, a transcript of the original payrolls, subscribed and affirmed as true under penalty of perjury.

The filing of payrolls is a condition of payment. The prime contractor is responsible for any underpayments of prevailing wages or supplements by any subcontractor.

All contractors or their subcontractors shall provide to their subcontractors a copy of the Prevailing Rate Schedule specified in the public work contract.

The Contracting Agency is also required to collect and maintain payroll records for five years from the date of the completion of the work, as well as designate in writing an individual in their employ to be responsible to collect certified payrolls and review them for validity.

OSHA 10-Hour Course

All workers on public work projects of at least \$250,000 are required to have taken this safety course. The provisions of this requirement must be included in the bid and contract documents.

Withholdings

The Contracting Agency is required to withhold and retain funds when directed by the Bureau. The funds may not be released until notified by the Bureau.

Contact Information

New York State Department of Labor

Phone Number: 1 (888) 469-7365

Web Site: www.labor.ny.gov