

**DAN GARDNER**  
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**Deputy Commissioner**

## **BUREAU OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES**

July 1, 2006

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.

Prevailing wage rates are the minimum wages that must be paid to all workers employed in the construction, reconstruction, major renovation or painting of all public works, unless specifically exempted by state law. These rates are determined using data collected from an annual statewide construction industry wage survey of occupations and crafts performing commercial building and heavy and highway construction in 14 geographic regions of the state.

Effective January 1, 2006, Senate Bill 477, passed by the 2005 Legislature, requires the higher of either the state prevailing wage rates or federal Davis-Bacon rates to be paid to workers on projects in Oregon subject to **both** the state PWR law and federal Davis-Bacon Act. SB 477 further requires the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries to compare state and federal rates for each occupation in each locality in the state, and publish and make available information showing which rate is higher for each occupation.

A separate publication, entitled "*PREVAILING WAGE RATES for Public Works Contracts in Oregon subject to BOTH the state PWR and federal Davis-Bacon Act*" provides the applicable rates to be paid to workers on projects subject to **both** the state Prevailing Wage Rate law and federal Davis-Bacon Act. This publication is available upon request and is also available electronically at [www.oregon.gov/boli](http://www.oregon.gov/boli).

Different wage rates apply to residential projects subject to the PWR law. Contact BOLI for more information.

The law requires that the applicable wage rates be incorporated into all bid specifications for public works contracts subject to the PWR law. **Effective May 15, BOLI amended its rules to allow a reference to the applicable wage rates in the bid specifications rather than requiring a copy of the rates to be included in the specifications.** A provision that prevailing wage rates must be paid must also appear in the contract. The rates in effect at the time the bid specifications are first advertised are those that apply for the duration of the project, with one exception: If, during the bidding process, the prevailing wage rates change, the public contracting agency has the option of amending the bid specifications to reflect such changes.

If you identify any errors in the rates published, or 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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