General Working Conditions

Overtime: Unless exempt, employees must be paid time and one-half the regular rate of pay for any time worked over 40 hours a week or, for domestic workers residing in the home of the employer, over 44 hours a week.

Tips: Employers may not use tips as credit toward minimum wages owed to an employee.

Deductions: Employers may make deductions from wages that are required by law, authorized by a collective bargaining agreement; are for the fair market value of meals and lodging provided for the private benefit of the employee; are for the employee’s benefit and are authorized in writing; or for an item in which the employer is not the ultimate recipient and the employee has voluntarily signed an authorization. An itemized statement of deductions made from wages must be provided with each paycheck.

Time and payroll records must be kept by employers for at least two years.

Regular paydays must be established and maintained. A pay period may not exceed 35 days.

Meal periods of not less than 30 minutes must be provided to non-exempt adult employees who work six or more hours in one work period. Ordinarily, employees are required to be relieved of all duties during the meal period. Under exceptional circumstances, however, the law allows an employee to perform duties during a meal period so long as they are paid. When that happens, the employer must pay the employee for the whole meal period.

Paid rest periods of at least 10 minutes for adults (15 minutes for minors) must be provided during each four-hour work period or major part of four hours worked. (There are narrow exceptions for adult employees working alone in retail/service establishments.) Certain employers are required to provide additional rest periods to employees to express milk for a child. With the exception of certain tipped food and beverage service workers, meal and rest periods may not be waived or used to adjust working hours; however, meal and rest period provisions may be modified by the terms of a collective bargaining agreement.

Final paychecks: If an employee is fired, the final paycheck is due no later than the end of the first business day after the discharge. If an employee quits with 48 hours or more notice, wages are due the last working day (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays). If an employee quits without at least 48 hours notice, wages are due in five days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) or on the next payday, whichever occurs first. (There are some exceptions. Contact the nearest Bureau of Labor and Industries office for information.)

Employment of Minors

Employment certificates: Employers must have an Employment Certificate, validated certificate in a conspicuous place where all employees can readily see it. (Contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries for complete information.)

Domestic Service Employment: Special rules apply to persons employed as domestic workers. Contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries for more information.

Working Conditions

Meal periods: Meal periods of not less than 30 minutes must be provided to non-exempt minor employees who work six or more hours in one work period.

Paid rest periods of at least 15 minutes must be provided during each four hour segment (or major portion) of work time.

Hazardous/Prohibited Occupations: Minors may not be employed in dangerous occupations. Contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries for complete information.

Adequate work must be provided to non-exempt minor employees who work six or more hours in one work period.

Adequate work means enough work (or compensation in lieu of work) to earn at least one half of the portion of work time.

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Adequate work means enough work (or compensation in lieu of work) to earn at least one half of the scheduled day’s earnings.

Agricultural Employment: Special rules apply to minors working in agriculture. Contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries for more information.

PENALTIES: Willful failure to pay wages due to an employee upon termination may be penalized by continuation of the employee’s wages up to a maximum of 30 days.

For Additional Information:

Contact the Bureau of Labor and Industries:
Online: www.oregon.gov/boli
Email: whdscreener@boli.state.or.us
Eugene………..541-686-7623 Technical Assistance For Employers Program: 971-673-0824
Portland……797-673-0761 TTY: 711
Salem………..503-378-3292

This is a summary of Oregon’s laws relating to minimum wage, working conditions and the employment of minors. It is not a complete text of the law.