The Labor Compliance Section of the Office of Contract Compliance monitors the payment of prevailing wages on City of Los Angeles public works projects. The State Department of Industrial Relations authorized the City to operate its own Labor Compliance Program in 1998. The City's Labor Compliance staff is highly trained and well equipped to offer a clear, quick response to a contractor's questions.

In a nutshell...

The City requires three things:

1) Pay the workers the proper wages and fringe benefits.

2) Submit the proper documentation proving that the correct wages were paid.

3) Use apprentices on the project, or, if unable to obtain apprentices, submit documentation proving that an attempt to obtain apprentices was made.

Place Stamp Here

City of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works
Bureau of Contract Administration
Office of Contract Compliance
600 South Spring Street, Suite 1300
Los Angeles, California 90014
(213) 847-6480

City of Los Angeles

Bureau of Contract Administration
Office of Contract Compliance

Labor Compliance Program

Quality - Opportunity - Compliance

The Labor Compliance Section of the Office of Contract Compliance is here to assist contractors, workers, and others in understanding prevailing wage.

1. What is Prevailing Wage?

The prevailing wage is a base pay rate established by State and Federal law to insure that all construction workers engaged in public works projects are paid adequately for the craft in which they are working. It is a combination of an hourly pay rate plus fringe benefits. Payment of the prevailing wage insures that contractors will hire qualified workers and the City will therefore receive quality work.

2. How does the Office of Contract Compliance (OCC) assist contractors?

By providing quick and easy access to accurate information, the OCC helps to insure that contractors avoid making mistakes. The Labor Compliance Section's emphasis is on providing education, assistance and direction to contractors doing work for the City. OCC offers seminars upon request, custom-designed to address issues of interest to individuals or groups of contractors who work on City public works projects.

OCC helps to "level the playing field" by insuring that all contractors are paying the correct rates and "playing by the same rules". Contractors who would hope to gain advantage by underpaying their own workers face stiff penalties.

Contractors can also receive updates and improved access to Federal and State labor laws through OCC.

3. How can I find the current Prevailing Wage Rate?

The State of California's Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) determines the prevailing wage rate. The rates generally are revised twice each year. OCC provides these – free of charge – to any contractor interested in doing business with the City.

The DIR maintains a web site at www.dir.ca.gov, which has the latest rates and other valuable information.

4. Who is subject to receiving prevailing wage?

All construction personnel who actually work on a project are required to receive prevailing wage. Professional or support personnel such as architects, clerical staff or security guards are not subject to prevailing wage.

Bona fide material suppliers who deliver materials to a job site are not subject to payment of prevailing wage. However if they then begin to help with the construction/ installation, they are covered from that point forward. If you are uncertain as to whether someone should receive prevailing wage, call Labor Compliance.

5. What about apprentices?

State law requires that apprentices be used on public works projects. If no apprentices are available, or if the work is not an apprenticeable craft, proper documentation must be submitted to indicate this.

All apprentices must be in a State or Federally approved program and must be in proper ratio to the number of journeymen present.

6. What about Certified Payrolls?

Certified payrolls provide a true and accurate record of the labor hours worked on a project. They are signed under penalty of perjury and are due weekly from the prime contractor and ALL subcontractors, owner-operators, vendors and suppliers who provide personnel to work at the job site.

Prime contractors are responsible for insuring that ALL subcontractors, etc. submit the required payroll documents.

Questions?
Call Labor Compliance
at (213) 847-6480
or Fax:
(213) 847-5566