Homeworker Handbook

U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division



O.M.B. No. 1235-0001 Expires: 05/31/2017

This handbook is the property of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor, and must be returned upon request. This is a Federal handbook only and does not authorize the distribution of homework by any employer or by any contractor in violation of any applicable State law or regulation.

1. A. Homeworker's name: (last name) (first name)				
B. Address: (number, street, city, S	tate, Zip code)			
2. A. Firm's name:				
B. Address: (number, street, city, St	ate, ZIP code)			
3. Homework distributed from: (numbe	r, street, city, State, Zip code)			
4. Industry:	5. Day and time workweek begins	6. Required minimum wage		
7. Date issued to homeworker (month,	day, year):	,		
8. Homeworker's certificate numb	er (if applicable) (See Regulations 29 C.F.R.	. § 530.4)		

NOTICE TO EMPLOYER AND HOMEWORKER

- 1. Under the Fair Labor Standards Act, homeworkers are entitled to the same protections of the law as other employees. Any violations committed with respect to homeworkers are subject to the penalties set forth in the law and in Regulations, 29 C.F.R. Parts 530 and 579.
- 2. Homeworkers must be paid at a rate of not less than the minimum wage provided in the Act for all hours worked unless a lower rate is permitted under a special certificate for an individual homeworker in accordance with Regulations, 29 C.F.R. Part 525.
- 3. Homeworkers must be paid overtime pay at a rate of not less than one and one-half times their regular rates of pay for all hours of work after 40 in a workweek.
- 4. Deductions from wages for damaged goods, cost of tools or materials (yarn, thread, packing materials, etc.), cost of machines or other equipment, etc., are not permitted and workers may not themselves pay such costs without reimbursement where this reduces the wages received to less than the minimum wage or cuts into required overtime pay.
- 5. No one under 16 years of age is permitted to perform industrial homework as defined in Regulations, 29 C.F.R. Part 530.
- 6. The work record entered in this handbook must be only for the employee named on the front page.
- 7. Records of hours worked and earnings of homeworkers must be kept by the employer in accordance with section 516.31 of Regulations, 29 C.F.R. Part 516.
- 8. No homework may be performed on Government manufacturing or supply contracts subject to the Walsh-Healey Public Contracts Act.

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to this collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number. This collection of information is authorized by section 11(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA). 29 U.S.C. § 211(d). Completion of this form is voluntary; however, the obligation to respond to this collection of information is required to obtain or retain the benefit of employing industrial homeworkers. 29 C.F.R. § 516.31. The information must be provided in order to ensure that employers fulfill their obligations under the FLSA with regard to industrial homeworkers. We estimate that it will take an average of 30 minutes to complete this collection of information, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Labor, Administrator, Wage and Hour Division, Room S3502, 200 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20210.

INSTRUCTIONS

(Enter in ink all information required)

Each page of this handbook is a time sheet to be used by the homeworker to accurately record all the hours worked in one workweek. A workweek is a fixed period of 7 consecutive calendar days - 168 hours. The employer designates the time of the day and day of the week on which the workweek begins.

In many instances, a homeworker does not work continuously, so space has been provided for several daily entries of starting and stopping times, if needed. It is important that the homeworker accurately record **each time** he or she starts and stops working (for example, "Start" - 8:15 a.m.; "Stop" - 10:45 a.m.). This time should be recorded immediately when he or she starts and stops working, rather than at the end of the day or workweek. However, short breaks or rest periods of less than 20 minutes need not be recorded.

Activities which must be considered hours worked (and paid for each pay period) include all time spent in:

- (a) setting up and putting away machines and materials,
- (b) adjusting, threading, cleaning, oiling, or repairing machines,
- (c) actual production of the articles,
- (d) inspection of the articles,
- (e) repairing or re-work.
- (f) sorting and packing or unpacking materials,
- (g) training to produce new designs or new items,
- (h) rest periods of short duration (up to 20 minutes),
- (i) traveling to and from the distribution point to pick up and/or deliver the homeworker's own work or the work of other homeworkers (where the travel includes time spent in personal activities, such as shopping or going to the post office, this personal travel time need not be included in counting the hours worked),
- (j) waiting at the distribution point to pick up work or deliver completed work and have it inspected,
- (k) any other activity required to produce the article, or otherwise required by the employer to be performed.

In the space indicated, the homeworker is to record the type(s) of article(s) worked on each day, the number of pieces made, and any other activities (travel, packing, etc.). The homeworker also is to record all business-related expenses incurred during the workweek, such as cost of thread and tools, postage, etc., in the space provided at the bottom of the time sheet.

Except for the time necessary for the calculation of hours worked at the end of the pay period by the employer, the handbook shall remain in the possession of the homeworker until filled in (that is, no space is left for entries) or until the homeworker's employment is terminated, at which time the handbook shall be returned to the employer as required by the regulations. The employer then signs and dates the statement on the final page and keeps and preserves the handbook for at least 2 years.

For further information or additional handbooks, contact the nearest office of the Wage and Hour Division, United States Department of Labor.

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I attest that the homeworker to whom this handbook was issued was instructed to accurately record all hours worked, piece work information, and business-related expenses. I also attest that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the information was recorded accurately.		
Date	Signature of Employer	