

DOCUMENT 00860

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT LAWS

Revised February 20, 2019

The Contractor's attention is directed to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 149, Sections 26 through 27H, and 150A. This contract is considered to fall within the ambit of that law, which provides that in general, the Prevailing Rate or Total Rate must be paid to employees working on projects funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any political subdivision including Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

A Federal Aid project is also subject to the Federal Minimum Wage Rate law for construction. When comparing a state minimum wage rate, monitored by the Massachusetts Attorney General, versus federal minimum wage rate, monitored by the U.S. Department of Labor Wage and Hour Division, for a particular job classification the higher wage is at all times to be paid to the affected employee.

Every contractor or subcontractor engaged in this contract to which sections twenty-seven and twenty-seven A apply will keep a true and accurate record of all mechanics and apprentices, teamsters, chauffeurs and laborers employed thereon, showing the name, address and occupational classification of each such employee on this contract, and the hours worked by, and the wages paid to, each such employee, and shall furnish to the MassDOT's Resident Engineer, on a weekly basis, a copy of said record, in a form approved by MassDOT and in accordance with M.G.L. c. 149, § 27B, signed by the employer or his/her authorized agent under the penalties of perjury.

Each such contractor or subcontractor shall preserve its payroll records for a period of three years from the date of completion of the contract.

The Prevailing Wage Rate generally includes the following:

Minimum Hourly Wage + Employer Contributions to Benefit Plans = Prevailing Wage Rate or Total Rate

Any employer who does not make contributions to Benefit Plans must pay the total Prevailing Wage Rate directly to the employee.

Any deduction from the Prevailing Wage Rate or Total Rate for contributions to benefit plans can only be for a Health & Welfare, Pension, or Supplementary Unemployment plan meeting the requirements of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act (ERISA) of 1974. The maximum allowable deduction for these benefits from the prevailing wage rate cannot be greater than the amount allowed by Executive Office of Labor (EOL) for the specified benefits. Any additional expense of providing benefits to the employees is to be borne by the employer and cannot be deducted from the Minimum Hourly Wage. If the employer's benefit expense is less than that so provided by EOL the difference will be paid directly to the employee. The rate established must be paid to all employees who perform work on the project.

When an employer makes deductions from the Minimum Hourly Wage for an employee's contribution to social security, state taxes, federal taxes, and/or other contribution programs, allowed by law, the employer shall furnish each employee a suitable pay slip, check stub or envelope notifying the employee of the amount of the deductions.

No contractor or subcontractor contracting for any part of the contract week shall require or permit any laborer or mechanic to be employed on such work in excess of forty hours in any workweek unless such laborer or mechanic receives compensation at a rate not less than one and one-half times his basic rate of pay for all hours worked in excess of forty hours in such workweek, whichever is the greater number of overtime hours.

Apprentice Rates are permitted only when there is an Apprentice Agreement registered with the Massachusetts Division of Apprentice Training in accordance with M.G.L. c. 23, § 11E-11L.

The Prevailing Wage Rates issued for each project shall be the rates paid for the entire project. The Prevailing Wage Rates must be posted on the job site at all times and be visible from a public way.

In addition, each such contractor and subcontractor shall furnish to the MassDOT's Resident Engineer, within fifteen days after completion of its portion of the work, a statement, executed by the contractor or subcontractor or by any authorized officer or employee of the contractor or subcontractor who supervises the payment of wages, in the following form:

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

Date: _____

I, _____ do hereby state:
(Name of signatory party) (Title)

That I pay or supervise the payment of the persons employed by:

(Contractor or Subcontractor)

on the _____
(MassDOT Project Location and Contract Number)

and that all mechanics and apprentices, teamsters, chauffeurs and laborers employed on said project have been paid in accordance with wages determined under the provisions of sections twenty-six and twenty-seven of chapter one hundred and forty-nine of the General Laws.

Signature _____

Title _____

The above-mentioned copies of payroll records and statements of compliance shall be available for inspection by any interested party filing a written request to the MassDOT's Resident Engineer for such inspection and copying.

Massachusetts General Laws c. 149, §27, requires annual updates to prevailing wage schedules for all public construction contracts lasting longer than one year. MassDOT will request the required updates and furnish them to the Contractor. The Contractor is required to pay no less than the wage rates indicated on the annual updated wage schedules.

MassDOT will request the updates no later than two weeks before the anniversary of the Notice to Proceed date of the contract to allow for adequate processing by the Department of Labor Standards (DLS). The effective date for the new rates will be the anniversary date of the contract (i.e. the notice to proceed date), regardless of the date of issuance on the schedule from DLS.

All bidders are cautioned that the aforementioned laws require that employers pay to covered employees no less than the applicable minimum wages. In addition, the same laws require that the applicable prevailing wages become incorporated as part of this contract. The prevailing minimum wage law establishes serious civil and criminal penalties for violations, including imprisonment and exclusion from future public contracts. Bidders are cautioned to carefully read the relevant sections of the Massachusetts General Laws.

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