

1. Inspect and copy books, registers, payrolls or other records that relate to or affect wages, hours and other conditions of employment for public works employees;
2. Question public works workmen to determine whether they are aware of violations of the prevailing wage act; and

3. Require public works employers to submit written statements, including sworn statements, concerning wages, hours, names, addresses and any other employee information as may be determined necessary by the Commissioner.

(b) If, within 10 days of a request by the Commissioner, a public works employer fails to file the material listed in (a)1 or 3 above, sworn as to its accuracy, the Commissioner may, within 15 days:

1. Direct the officer responsible for disbursement of funds for the public body which contracted for the public works project to withhold from the employer 25 percent of the amount, not to exceed \$100,000, due the employer under the contract for the project.
2. When the employer complies with the request for records, the Commissioner shall notify the public body, who shall immediately release the withheld funds.

(c) The public works employers shall submit to the public body or lessor which contracted for the public works project the following in a form satisfactory to the Commissioner (see Appendix A, incorporated herein by reference).

1. A certified payroll record on each public works project.
 - i. Such record shall be submitted each payroll period within 10 days of the payment of wages.
 - ii. The public body shall receive, file, store and make available for inspection during normal business hours the certified payroll records. In its discretion, it may store these records at any depository, such as a public library or other public building, so long as such documents are available for inspection during normal business hours.

Amended by R.1992 d.94, effective February 18, 1992.
See: 23 N.J.R. 2945(a), 24 N.J.R. 622(b).
Added (c).

SUBCHAPTER 7. CRITERIA FOR DETERMINING APPRENTICE TO JOURNEYMAN RATIO

12:60-7.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Apprentice” means an individual who, while performing work on a public work project, is registered, in good standing, in an apprenticeship program approved or certified by the Division of Vocational Education in the New Jersey Department of Education or by the Bureau of Apprenticeship and Training in the United States Department of Labor.

“Records” means all books, registers, payrolls, and any other documentation maintained by the employer that have a bearing upon the question of wages, hours and other conditions of employment of any workmen.

12:60-7.2 Responsibilities of contractors and subcontractors

(a) A contractor or subcontractor employing one or more apprentices on a public work project shall maintain with its records written evidence that the apprentice or apprentices are registered in an approved apprenticeship program while performing work on the project.

1. The contractor or subcontractor shall make all records available for inspection by the public body awarding the contract and by the Commissioner during normal business hours.
2. The awarding body and the Commissioner shall have unencumbered access to the employees who are employed on a public work project for the purpose of interviewing and determining compliance.

(b) A contractor or subcontractor shall not create job titles and worker classifications which are not consistent with prevailing practices and existing task ratios for a specific building trades craft for the purpose of circumventing the intent of this subchapter.

12:60-7.3 Ratio of apprentices to journeymen

(a) Upon determining the prevailing wage rate and establishing the prevailing wage in the locality for each craft, trade or class of workmen needed to perform public work contracts, the Commissioner shall also determine the ratio of apprentices to journeymen for the purpose of establishing the number of workmen who may be paid the apprentice rate.

(b) If no ratio of apprentices to journeymen is set forth in the collective bargaining agreement used by the Commissioner to make his or her prevailing wage determination, the maximum ratio of apprentices to journeymen shall be one apprentice to every four journeymen.

(c) If the prevailing collective bargaining agreement for a craft or trade does not provide for an apprentice rate, the employer shall pay the employees not less than the journeyman's rate even if an employee is registered in an apprentice program for that trade.

12:60-7.4 Correction of wage rate

(a) If the Department determines that a worker who has been paid an apprentice wage rate on a project is entitled to a journeyman's rate, the Department shall conduct an audit and require the contractor or subcontractor to pay the worker an additional amount equal to the difference between the rate of an apprentice and the rate of a journeyman plus any applicable benefits the worker is entitled to as a journeyman.

SUBCHAPTER 8. DEBARMENT FROM CONTRACTING

12:60-8.1 Purpose and scope

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to set forth the conditions which constitute grounds for debarment from public works and Economic Development Authority (EDA) contracts, and to notify individuals of the departmental policies and procedures concerning debarment.

(b) The provisions of this subchapter shall be applicable to all contractors, subcontractors, and other persons who perform public works for any public body and EDA projects in New Jersey.

12:60-8.2 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this subchapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department of Labor or his or her designee.

“Contractor” means a person who undertakes to perform a job or piece of a public works project or EDA project and who retains control of the means, method and manner of accomplishing the desired result. Contractor includes the officers and directors of a corporate contractor.

“Debarment” means the inclusion on a Statewide list of persons who are prohibited from performing public works or EDA projects, on the basis of a lack of responsibility evidenced by an offense as set forth in this subchapter.

“Department” means the New Jersey Department of Labor.

“Person” means any natural person, company corporate officer or principal, firm, association, corporation, contractor, subcontractor or other entity engaged in public works or EDA projects.

“Public body” means the State of New Jersey, any of its political subdivisions, any authority created by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey and any instrumentality or agency of the State of New Jersey or of any of its political subdivisions.

“Public work” means constructions, reconstruction, demolition, alteration, or repair work or maintenance work, including painting and decorating, done under contract and paid for in whole or in part out of the funds of a public body, except work performed under a rehabilitation program.

“Suspension” means an exclusion from contracting for future public works or EDA projects for a temporary period of time, pending the completion of debarment proceedings.

12:60-8.3 Conditions of debarment

(a) Debarment from public works or EDA contracts shall be made only with the approval of the Commissioner, except as otherwise provided by law.

(b) The Commissioner may debar a person, after an investigation and determination that the person has failed or refused to pay the prevailing wage rate.

(c) A violation as listed in (b) above shall not necessarily require that a person be debarred. In each case, the decision to debar shall be made at the discretion of the Commissioner unless otherwise provided by law. The Commissioner may consider the following factors as material in each decision to debar:

1. The record of previous violations by the person with the Office of Wage and Hour Compliance;
2. Previous cases of debarment by the Commissioner;
3. The frequency of violations by the person discovered in previous cases;
4. The significance or scale of the violations, consisting of shortfalls in wages or fringe benefits computed in audits;
5. The existence of outstanding audit(s) or failure(s) to pay;
6. Failure to respond to a request to produce records, forms, documents, or proof of payments; and
7. Submission of falsified or altered records, forms, documents, or proof of payment.

(d) The Commissioner may, upon the approval of the Attorney General, suspend a person pending debarment action.

1. When the Commissioner suspends a person from contracting, the person suspended shall be furnished with a written notice stating:
 - i. That suspension has been imposed and its effective date;
 - ii. The reasons for the suspension, to the extent that the Attorney General determines that such reasons may be properly disclosed; and
 - iii. That the suspension is for a temporary period, but that whenever debarment action has been initiated, the suspension may continue until the legal proceedings are completed.

Case Notes

Violations of Prevailing Wage Act were not significant and did not warrant debarment of contractor from public work projects. Department of Labor v. Kinder Construction, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (LBR) 31.

Employee was discharged because he refused to report to work, not because he filed claim for workers' compensation benefits. Johnson v. Anheuser-Busch, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (LBR) 23.

Debarment from list of subcontractors performing public work projects was appropriate given undisputed failure to pay prevailing wages on four projects. Department of Labor v. Bob Jones Electrical, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (LBR) 21.

Debarment from list of contractors performing public works was required for failure to pay prevailing wages to employees performing work on prison wastewater treatment plant. Department of Labor v. V.S.P., Inc., 95 N.J.A.R.2d (LBR) 18.

Roofing company debarred; failure to pay overtime. Grove Roofing, Inc. v. Department of Labor, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (LBR) 18.

Contracting company debarred; failure to pay prevailing wages. Department of Labor v. Bob Jones Electrical Contracting Co., Inc., 94 N.J.A.R.2d (LBR) 10.

12:60-8.4 Notification of debarment

(a) When the Department seeks to debar a person, the person or persons shall be furnished with a written notice stating:

1. That debarment is being considered;
2. The provisions of N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.37 and 34:11-56.38;
3. The specific details of the violations referring to employees involved by name, job classifications, dates of violations and any amount found due;
4. The public work or EDA project involved during which performance of the violations cited occurred; and
5. That the person shall have the right to appeal the debarment to the Commissioner within 15 days of the date of the notice of intent to debar. Any appeal received within the 15-day period will be filed as of the 15th day.

(b) The notice of intent to debar shall be mailed, by regular mail and return receipt requested, to each corporate officer of record, partner, individual proprietor or other involved person.

(c) If, after confirmation that the person has been mailed the notice of intent to debar, the person has not filed an appeal, the person shall be listed as a debarred person.

(d) All hearings conducted pursuant to this section shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1 and N.J.A.C. 1:12B. Where any other State department or agency has already imposed debarment upon a party, the Commissioner may also impose a similar debarment without affording an opportunity for a hearing, provided the Commissioner furnishes notice of the proposed similar debarment to that party, and affords that party an opportunity to present information in his or her behalf to explain why the proposed similar debarment should not be imposed in whole or part.

(e) Debarment shall be for a period of three years.

Amended by R.1996 d.113, effective February 20, 1996.
See: 27 N.J.R. 4495(a), 28 N.J.R. 1221(a).

Shortened the time for appeal from 25 to 15 days.

12:60-8.5 Lists

The Department shall provide the State Treasurer with the names of all persons debarred and the effective date and period of debarment, if any.

SUBCHAPTER 9. VIOLATIONS, PENALTIES, AND FEES

12:60-9.1 Purpose; scope

(a) The purpose of this subchapter is to establish rules to effectuate N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25 et seq., the New Jersey Prevailing Wage Act (Act), provide sanctions for non-compliance, and to protect established wage rates.

(b) The chapter is applicable to:

1. Wages and hours subject to the Act; and
2. Wages paid to an employee for services rendered.

12:60-9.2 Violations of the Act

(a) Violations of the Act shall occur when an employer:

1. Willfully hinders or delays the Commissioner in the performance of the duties of the Commissioner in the enforcement of this chapter;
2. Fails to make, keep and preserve any records as required under the provisions of this chapter;
3. Falsifies any such record;
4. Refuses to make any such record accessible to the Commissioner upon demand;
5. Refuses to furnish a sworn statement of such record or any other information required for the proper enforcement of this chapter to the Commissioner upon demand;
6. Pays or agrees to pay wages at a rate less than the prevailing rate applicable under this chapter;
7. Requests, demands, or receives, either for himself or any other person, either before or after a worker is engaged in public work at a specified rate of wages, the following:

- i. That such worker forego, pay back, return, donate, contribute or give any part, or all, of his or her wages, salary or thing of value, to any person upon the statement, representation or understanding that failure to comply with such request or demand will prevent such worker from procuring or retaining employment; or

8. Otherwise violates any provision of this chapter or of any order issued under this chapter.

(b) An employer who knowingly and willfully violates any provision of this chapter shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense and shall, upon conviction therefor:

1. Be fined not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000;
2. Be imprisoned for not less than 10 nor more than 90 days; or
3. Be subject to both the fine and imprisonment.

(c) Each week in any day of which an employee is paid less than the rate applicable to him or her under the Act or under a minimum fair wage order, and each employee so paid, shall constitute a separate offense.

Case Note

Government contractor underpaid its employees. New Jersey Department of Labor v. Can Tech Services Co., 96 N.J.A.R.2d (LBR) 48.

12:60-9.3 Administrative penalties

(a) As an alternative to or in addition to any other sanctions provided for in N.J.A.C. 12:60-9.2, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.25 et seq. when the Commissioner finds that an employer has violated that Act, the Commissioner is authorized to assess and collect administrative penalties in the amounts that follow:

1. First violation—not more than \$250.00.
2. Second and subsequent violations—not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$500.00.

(b) No administrative penalty shall be levied pursuant to this subchapter unless the Commissioner provides the alleged violator with notification by certified mail of the violation and the amount of the penalty and an opportunity to request a formal hearing. A request for a formal hearing must be received within 15 working days following the receipt of the notice.

1. If a hearing is not requested, the notice shall become a final order upon the expiration of the 15-working day period following receipt of the notice.

2. If a hearing is requested, the Commissioner shall issue a final order upon such hearing and a finding that a violation has occurred.

3. All wages due, fees and penalties shall be paid within 30 days of the date of the final order. Failure to pay such wages due, fees and/or penalty shall result in a judgment being obtained in a court of competent jurisdiction.

4. All payments shall be made payable to the "Commissioner of Labor, Prevailing Wage Trust Fund". All payments shall be made by certified check or money order, or payable in a form suitable to the Commissioner of Labor.

(c) In assessing an administrative penalty pursuant to this chapter, the Commissioner shall consider the following factors, where applicable, in determining what constitutes an appropriate penalty for the particular violations.

1. The seriousness of the violation;
2. The past history of previous violations by the employer;
3. The good faith of the employer;
4. The size of the employer's business; and
5. Any other factors which the Commissioner deems to be appropriate in the determining of the penalty assessed.

12:60-9.4 Administrative fees

(a) The Commissioner is authorized to supervise the payment of amounts due to employees under this chapter, and the employer may be required to make these payments to the Commissioner to be held in a special account in trust for the employee, and paid on order of the Commissioner directly to the employee or employees affected.

(b) The employer shall also pay the Commissioner an administrative fee on all payments due to employees pursuant to Articles 1 and 2 of Chapter 11 of Title 34 of the revised statutes.

(c) A schedule of the administrative fees is set forth in Table 9.4(c) below:

Table 9.4(c)

Schedule of Administrative Fees

1. First violation—10 percent of amount of any payment made to the Commissioner pursuant to this chapter;
2. Second violation—18 percent of amount of any payment made to the Commissioner pursuant to this chapter;
3. Third and subsequent violations—25 percent of amount of any payment made to the Commissioner pursuant to this chapter.

12:60-9.5 Hearings

(a) No assessment of wages, fees or penalties shall be levied pursuant to this subchapter unless the Commissioner provides the alleged violator with written notification of the violation and the amount of the wages, fees and/or penalties, and an opportunity to request a formal hearing. A request for a formal hearing must be received within 15 business days following the receipt of the notice of assessment. All contested cases shall be heard pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq. and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1. The filing of a request for a hearing regarding wages, fees or penalties shall not preclude the Commissioner from pursuing other remedies under the Prevailing Wage Act, including debarment pursuant to N.J.S.A. 34:11-56.37 and 56.38.

(b) All requests for a hearing shall be reviewed by the Office of Wage and Hour Compliance to determine if the reason for dispute could be resolvable at an informal settlement conference. If the review indicates that an informal settlement conference is warranted, such conference shall be scheduled. If a settlement cannot be reached, the case shall be forwarded to the Office of Administrative Law for a formal hearing.

(c) The Commissioner shall make the final decision of the Department.

(d) Appeals of the final decision of the Commissioner shall be made to the Appellate Division of the New Jersey Superior Court.

(e) If the employer, or a designated representative of the employer, fails to appear at a requested hearing, the Commissioner or his or her designee may, for good cause shown, reschedule a hearing.

(f) If the Commissioner or his or her designee does not authorize such a rescheduled hearing, then the Commissioner shall issue a final agency determination.

(g) Payment of the wages, fees and/or penalties is due when a final agency determination is issued.

(h) Upon final determination, the wages, fees and penalties may be recovered with cost in a summary proceeding commenced by the Commissioner.

Amended by R.1996 d.113, effective February 20, 1996.
See: 27 N.J.R. 4495(a), 28 N.J.R. 1221(a).

12:60-9.6 Discharge or discrimination against employee making complaint

(a) An employer is a disorderly person, if he or she discharges or in any other manner discriminates against any employee because such employee has made any complaint to his or her employer, to the public body, or to the Commissioner that he or she has not been paid wages in accordance with the provisions of this chapter, or because such employee has caused to be instituted or is about to cause to be instituted any proceeding under or related to this chapter, or because such employee has testified or is about to testify in any such proceeding, shall be guilty of a disorderly persons offense and shall, upon conviction therefor, be fined not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$1,000.00.

(b) As an alternative to, or in addition to, any sanctions imposed under (a) above, the Commissioner is authorized under N.J.S.A. 34:11-56a.24 to assess and collect administrative penalties as provided for in N.J.A.C. 12:60-9.3.

APPENDIX A

FORM TO FACILITATE THE SUBMISSION OF PAYROLL RECORDS

Editor's Note: N.J.A.C. 12:60, Appendix A, is not reproduced in the New Jersey Administrative Code. A copy may be obtained by contacting the Office of Administrative Law, CN 049, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, or the Department of Labor, Division of Workplace Standards.

New Rule, R.1992 d.94, effective February 18, 1992.
See: 23 N.J.R. 2945(a), 24 N.J.R. 622(b).