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## PREVAILING WAGE – Public Entity Project Owners

Any public works project that has a total estimated project cost of at least \$25,000 will require a prevailing wage rate determination issued by the Department of Workforce Development (DWD). Public works include erecting, constructing, remodeling, repairing, demolishing, alterations, painting and decorating projects for a local governmental unit or state agency. State law excludes minor service or maintenance work, warranty work, or work under a supply-and-installation contract. There is a statutory definition for each of these exclusions. The prevailing wage laws that apply to local governmental units include §66.0903, Wis. Stats. and §66.0904, Wis. Stats. The prevailing wage law that applies to state agencies is §103.49, Wis. Stats. The applicable administrative rules for all public entities are DWD 290 and DWD 294, Wis. Adm. Code.

Effective January 1, 2010, a local governmental unit or state agency that has a public works project of \$25,000 or more must do all of the following:

- Request a prevailing wage rate determination for the project from DWD at least 30 days before soliciting bids or negotiating contracts. An Application for Prevailing Wage Rate Determination is available on the DWD website: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/prevailing\\_wage\\_rate/default.htm](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/prevailing_wage_rate/default.htm)
- Tell potential contractors the project is subject to state prevailing wage law when soliciting bids.
- Include the prevailing wage rate determination in the construction contract, or if there is no written contract, provide a copy of the project determination to each prime contractor.
- Award contracts to contractors who do *not* appear on the “Consolidated List of Debarred Contractors.”
- Tell contractors they must provide DWD certified payroll records monthly in a format that meets DWD reporting requirements.
- Post the prevailing wage rate determination on the project site. (This document is often referred to as “the white sheet.”)

- Notify project contractors that if DWD finds that a contractor violated the prevailing wage law, DWD will assess liquidated damages of 100% of the wages owed to employees.
- Obtain an Affidavit of Compliance from each prime contractor before making final payment for the project.

If a local governmental unit or state agency has a prevailing wage project underway and work on that project will continue into 2010, the local governmental unit or state agency must do the following:

- Inform all project contractors that effective January 1, 2010 and each month thereafter, they must file certified payroll records with DWD in a format that meets DWD reporting requirements. The first certified payroll reports must be filed with DWD by the end of the first week in February 2010.

If the total estimated cost of the project is at least \$25,000, a local governmental unit or state agency also must obtain a prevailing wage rate determination under the following circumstances:

- when a completed facility is leased, purchased, lease-purchased or otherwise acquired by or dedicated to a public entity in lieu of the public entity contracting for the project,
- when one public entity does work for another public entity,
- when a *private* entity will construct a road, street, bridge, sanitary sewer or water main project and dedicate it to a local governmental unit or the state for its ownership or maintenance.

Finally, a new prevailing wage law (§66.0904, Stats.) that affects local governmental units requires that the prevailing wage applies to publicly funded private construction projects that receive at least \$1,000,000 in direct financial assistance from the local governmental unit.

For more information, please visit the prevailing wage website: [http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/prevailing\\_wage\\_rate/default.htm](http://dwd.wisconsin.gov/er/prevailing_wage_rate/default.htm). For further assistance, please call the Equal Rights Division at 608-266-6860 and ask for prevailing wage.