LABOR, West Virginia Division of

AGENCY OVERVIEW

The Division of Labor protects the lives and health of West Virginians by:

Providing, without charge, safety consultations to employers to help them provide a safer workplace for their employees;

Enforcing child labor laws prohibiting working children from working hours that would interfere with school or health or working in hazardous areas;

Supervising the inspection of all boilers operating above a pressure of fifteen (15) pounds per square inch;

Enforcing state and federal construction and safety standards for manufactured homes;

Enforcing safety standards for amusement rides, amusement attractions, zip-line & canopy tours;

Enforcing the Elevator Safety Act of West Virginia;

Enforcing the overtime regulations for employers who work their employees over 40 hours in a workweek;

Administering the Parental Leave Act;


Enforcing state safety laws in areas where there are no federal standards; conducting an annual occupational injury and illness survey to identify the severity of risk associated with various kinds of employment;

The Division of Labor promotes prosperity for West Virginians by:

Ensuring a minimum hourly wage is paid to employees;

Securing wage bonds to protect employees’ wages and fringe benefits when involved in construction or the extraction and transportation of minerals, where the employer does not qualify for an exemption;

Licensing contractors, which require tax, unemployment and workers’ compensation registrations being verified;

Providing arbitration, mediation, and conciliation services when requested by both labor and management representatives;

Protecting employees and prospective employees against the use of polygraph examinations.

Verifying the legal employment status of workers in West Virginia.

Making sure every product bought or sold by weight or measure is labeled and properly offered for sale; that licensing and labeling requirements are met for bedding and upholstered furniture to assure sanitation; protection of consumers from deceptive practices and businesses from unfair competition through enforcing the laws governing closing - out sales, fire sales, and defunct business sales; cooperation with the United States Consumer Product Safety Commission to protect the public from hazardous products;
ORGANIZATION

The Division of Labor is organized into an administrative and four service sections. The specific service sections of the Division are: (1) Licensing, (2) Safety, (3) Wage and Hour and (4) Weights and Measures. The responsibilities of each section are mandated by statute with labor inspectors providing enforcement.

The Administration Section of the West Virginia Division of Labor manages accounts payable, accounts receivable, appropriations, budget, expenditure schedules, human resources, payroll, purchasing and other necessary support services. Major objectives of the Administration Section are to: improve the quality of supervision; improve quality and quantity of training; continue efforts to reduce expenditures by establishing and exercising better fiscal controls, policies and communication.

The Licensing section enforces the Contractor Licensing Act, Crane Operator Certification Act, Heating, Ventilating and Cooling Work Act, Manufactured Housing Construction and Safety Standards Act and the Supervision of Plumbing Work Act.

The Safety section provides safety consultation services through agreement with the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration, inspects and certifies all high pressure boilers, enforces the WV Occupational Safety and Health Act, which applies to public employees, provides for the safety inspection and examination of elevators, escalators and other lifting and lowering devices which run between fixed guides and rails in the state, licenses elevator mechanics and registers elevator apprentices and provides oversight and/or inspections of Amusement Rides and Amusement Attractions as well as Zipline and Canopy Tours in the state.

The Wage and Hour section enforces the Wage Payment and Collection Act, including its Wage Bonding provision, Minimum Wage and Maximum Hours Act, Equal Pay for Equal Work Act, Child Labor Act, Parental Leave Act, Industrial Homework Act, Jobs Act, Nurses Overtime and Patient Safety Act and verifies the Legal Employment Status of Workers.

The Weights and Measures section enforces the Weights and Measures Act, Bedding and Closing-Out and Defunct Business Sales Act.
PERFORMANCE MEASURES FY 2019

Licensing

8,192 Contractor Licensing Inspections Conducted
450 Contractor Licensing Cease and Desist Orders Issued
332 Crane Operator Certification Inspections Conducted
11 Crane Operator Certification Cease and Desist Orders Issued
649 HVAC Technician Inspections Conducted
64 HVAC Technician Cease and Desist Orders Issued
87 Manufactured Housing Consumer Complaint Inspections
85 Manufactured Housing Letters of Correction and Violations Issued
436 Plumber Certification Inspections Conducted
34 Plumber Cease and Desist Orders Issued

Safety

Safety Unit - Consultation Program

152 Consultation visits were conducted to identify safety/health hazards
617 Serious hazards were identified and verified corrected
37 Training visits were conducted
189 Employees were trained
98.68% Consultations in small establishments
100% Consultations with workers consulted

Safety Unit—Occupational Safety and Health Program

6 Employee safety complaints were addressed

Boiler Unit

716 Boiler Inspections
671 Boilers Passing Safety Inspections
45 Boilers Rejected for Safety Violations
Elevator Safety Unit

4,757 Elevator Devices Inspected for Safety Requirements
4,631 Elevator Devices passing Safety Inspections
149 Elevator 2yr. Mechanic Licenses Issued, current total licensed 239
20 Apprentices Registered, current total registered 29

Amusement Rides & Attractions Unit

989 Rides/Attractions Inspected for Safety Requirements
989 Rides/Attractions Passing Safety Inspections
7 Temporary Cessation of Operations Issued

WAGE AND HOUR

Workload Indicators:

108 New Wage Bonds processed with 813 Releases and 506 Cancellations
5,252 Wage Bond Inspections Conducted
124 Wage Bond Cease and Desist Orders Served
844 Request for Assistance for Wage and Hour compliance issues received
116 Child labor Investigations conducted. 56 Child Labor Violations
689 Work Permits and 493 Certificates of Age processed
567 Undocumented Worker Inspections performed
355 Notice to Produce Records served
633 Mine Permit approvals processed
2,281 Jobs Act Inspections and Record Reviews performed, 526 Violations
13 Minimum Wage Inspections performed. 4 Violations
28 Polygraph Examiner Licenses renewed

Effective Measures:

$2,615,842.88 New Wage Bonds processed
$29,399,589.66 Wage Bonds released and/or cancelled.
$299,843.04 Unpaid wages and fringe benefits collected for 355 employees
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

3,712 Bedding permits processed.

36,239 Devices Tested - Inspections of commercial measuring devices to insure accurate transaction in the marketplace.

1,732 Requests for Assistance - Accommodated request for assistance from businesses and consumers relating to Weights & Measures

5,830 Standards Calibrations - Performed at the W&M Laboratory to ensure traceability to NIST.

252 Pricing Scanners/Packages - Scanned to ensure accuracy of price scanning systems.

942 Packaged Commodities - Tested to ensure correct net weight and labeling

8 Going-Out-of-Business - Licenses issued and sales regulate