



technical bulletin

Municipal Technical Advisory Service
Institute for Public Service, The University of Tennessee
In cooperation with the Tennessee Municipal League

April 1975

DAVIS-BACON WAGE REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL AID PROJECTS

This bulletin contains information updating previous Technical Bulletins on the Davis-Bacon Act and Federal Revenue Sharing. For federally-aided street construction projects the Davis-Bacon requirements can be met by including in the contract (bid specifications also) the statewide highway construction wage scales as published in the Federal Register. The prevailing wages, which should hold for the balance of 1975 highway construction in Tennessee, appear below:

<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>BASIC HRLY. RATE</u>	<u>OCCUPATION</u>	<u>BASIC HRLY. RATE</u>
Bricklayers	\$6.00	Earth Drill	\$3.60
Iron Workers - Structural	5.35	Scale Operator	3.50
Iron Workers - Reinforce	4.75	Tractor - Farm	3.55
Carpenter or Leadsman	5.00	Curb Machine	3.40
Cement Mason	5.00	Ditch Paver	3.30
Nozzleman or Gunman (Gunite)	5.00	Pump Operator	3.20
Painter or Sand Blaster	5.00	Concrete Saw	3.50
Shovel Operator	5.00	Guard Rail Erector	3.50
Backhoe Operator	5.00	Sign Erector	3.70
Crane Operator	5.00	Motor Crane Drive	3.50
End Loader	5.00	Fence Erector	3.50
Pile Driver Operator	5.00	Fireman	3.30
Motor Patrol - Finish	5.00	Asphalt Raker	3.60
Concrete Paver Operator	5.00	Track Drill Operator	3.75
Mechanic - Class I	5.00	Concrete Edger	3.40
Mechanic - Class II	4.35	Powder Man	4.25
Motor Patrol (Rough)	4.35	Form Setter - Steel Road	3.95
Bull Dozer or Push Dozer Operator	4.75	Air Tool Operator	3.30
Scraper Operator	4.75	Mortar Mixer	3.25
Trenching Machine Operator	4.50	Chain Saw	3.25
Central Mixing (Asphalt or Concrete)	4.35	Pipe Layer	3.25
Tractor - Boom and Hoist	4.50	Concrete Rubber	3.25
Concrete Finishing Machine	4.35	Laborer	3.05
Soil Cement Machine	4.35	Flagman	3.05
Asphalt Paver	4.35	Oiler	3.90
Roller - High Type	4.35	Welder's Helper*	3.20
Spreader - Self-Propelled	4.20	Mechanic's Helper	3.30
Distributor - Bituminous	4.05	Electricians	5.77
Roller - Other than Finish	3.90	Truck Drivers	
Tractor - Crawler - Utility	4.10	2 & 3 Axles	3.40
Dozer or Loader - Stock Pile Only	3.85	4 & 5 Axles or More or Heavy	
Concrete Mixer - Less than 1 Yd.	3.60	Duty off-the-road trucks	4.00
Mulcher or Seeder	3.50		

*Welders - Receive rate for craft performing operation to which welding is incidental.

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For non-highway construction projects, a wage determination request must be made 30 days before advertising for bids. This request is made on Department of Labor standard form 308. This form, as well as the wage determination request, can be obtained from James E. Patching, Regional Administrator, Employment Standards Administration, U. S. Department of Labor, 1371 Peachtree St., N.E., Room 331, Atlanta, GA 30309. For further information by phone call Gerald M. Parks, 404/526-5801.

It is interesting to note that the Davis-Bacon Act was first signed into law by President Hoover in March 1931 as a measure to protect local contractors and workers from out-of-town contractors bidding for government work with low-paid labor. Ironically, today the opposite is often true with the Davis-Bacon Act requiring the payment of artificially high wages, particularly in the more remote and rural areas of the state. At one time President Nixon tried unsuccessfully to suspend the Davis-Bacon wage provisions as part of his economic stabilization program. The move met with tough opposition from organized labor who feel the act protects workers against exploitation, especially in times of high unemployment.

The Davis-Bacon wage requirements have been written into nearly every federal aid law since the original passage of the act, including general revenue sharing and most recently the Community Development Act. About the only exceptions are projects funded by the Farmers' Home Administration and Federal Disaster Assistance Administration.--LG

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