



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Prevailing Wage
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August 23, 2011

Dave Heitstuman, Project Manager
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10419 E Trent Ave.
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Re: Prevailing Wage - Electronic Technicians – Low Energy Work

Dear Mr. Heitstuman:

Thank you for your July 18, 2011 e-mail. You asked about limited energy electrical work and the prevailing wage scope of work description for Electronic Technicians (WAC 296-127-01322). Your question asks for a determination of the correct prevailing wage scope of work for the limited energy work performed on temperature controls and HVAC systems.

The answer below is based on the information you provided. References to the Revised Code of Washington (RCW) and the Washington Administrative Code (WAC) are included. Again, this answer is based on your fact set. If the facts differ from those you provided, the answers may be different.

RCW 39.12.015 provides that all determinations of the prevailing rate of pay shall be made by the Industrial Statistician.

RCW 39.12.020 requires that "The hourly wages to be paid to laborers, workers or mechanics, upon all public works and under all public building service maintenance contracts of the state or any county, municipality, or political subdivision created by its laws, shall be not less than the prevailing rate of wage for an hour's work in the same trade or occupation in the locality within the state where such work is performed."

By rule, scope of work descriptions are issued for each trade and occupation recognized as being involved in public work. "The applicable prevailing wage rates for workers employed on public works projects shall be determined by the scopes of work performed by those workers, and not by their specific job titles." See WAC 296-127-013.

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works projects shall be determined by the scopes of work performed by those workers, and not by their specific job titles." See WAC 296-127-013.

The scope of work descriptions are adopted as Washington Administrative Code (WAC). You correctly observed that the scope of work for the Telecommunication technicians (WAC 296-127-01378) is not correct for the controls systems work that you describe.

You provided comparisons of the work on certain systems (such as fire alarms) in the Electronic Technicians scope of work (WAC 296-127-01322) and work on the controls in question which are not systems listed in the Electronic Technicians' scope of work description.

On page three of a four page document discussing differences between the Telecommunication Technicians and the Electronic Technicians scopes of work you highlighted some language discussing how the electrical licensing laws apply to Telecommunications and Electronic Technicians. As noted, the electrical licensing laws allow either the Electronic Technicians or the Inside Wireman Electrician to perform work on the HVAC/refrigeration controls. That paragraph states that "the prevailing wage scope of work descriptions are not derived from and do not necessarily parallel the electrical licensing laws..." The very next heading in this four page document identifies what work may be performed under the prevailing wage scope of work for the Electronic Technicians:

The Electronic Technicians Scope of Work (WAC 296-127-01322)

The Electronic Technicians scope is for work on limited energy systems that are not voice over distance systems unless that voice function is combined with one or more of the systems specifically identified in the Electronic Technicians scope of work:

- Radio
- Television
- Recording systems
- Paging
- Intercommunication
- Public address
- Wired music
- Clocks
- Security
- Surveillance
- Mobile radio
- Fire alarm
- Burglar alarm

Public work on these specific systems requires, at a minimum, the Electronic Technician scope of work and its corresponding prevailing rate of pay for public work.

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Data communications (specifically bits and bytes but not transmission of voltage) were not addressed when the Electronic Technicians scope was drafted. Electronic Technicians can install systems that have data communications inside buildings.

For specific details, please see the scope of work description(s).

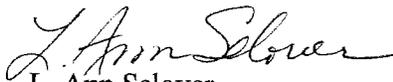
The HVAC/refrigeration controls are not on the list of systems that the prevailing wage law recognizes for the work of the Electronic Technicians in the scope of work description. The scope describes which systems may use the Electronic Technicians prevailing rate of pay. Since the HVAC/refrigeration controls are not on the list of systems that use the prevailing rate of pay for Electronic technicians, the correct prevailing wage rate used for such controls would be the Inside Wireman Electrician.

Please note that Sheet Metal Workers (WAC 296-127-01372) is also a correct worker classification for work on the control systems you describe.

Washington State prevailing wage information, including the WACs, are available on the Department's web site: <http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/PrevWage/default.asp>

I hope this answers your questions. If you need additional information or have questions, please let me know.

Sincerely,



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