



STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Prevailing Wage  
PO Box 44540 • Olympia, Washington 98504-4540  
360/902-5335 Fax 360/902-5300

October 31, 2014

Russ Soeters  
The Conco Companies  
18644 – 72<sup>nd</sup> Avenue South  
Kent, WA 98032

Re: Determination Request – Prevailing Wage Rate Classifications for Specific Concrete Procedures

Dear Mr. Soeters:

Thank you for your May 2, 2014 letter requesting a determination for the proper prevailing rate of wage for work related to concrete slab (on grade) finishing, patching of holes with the new method that replaced the old “sacking” method, and the patching of holes that do not require finishing. I appreciate your patience in awaiting my response.

This is a determination of the Industrial Statistician regarding coverage of the referenced work under the Washington’s prevailing wage laws and is made pursuant to RCW 39.12.015. See the enclosed documents, “*Prevailing Wage Determination Request and Review Process.*” Copies of the RCWs and WACs referenced in this letter are also enclosed.

This determination is based on the information you provided. If the facts differ from those provided, the answers may be different.

The materials I reviewed included, but were not limited to:

- May 2, 2014 determination request;
- WAC 296-127-01315, scope of work for Cement Masons;
- WAC 296-127-01344, scope of work for Laborers;
- The Mapei and Ardex websites.

Below is a numerical list of the work descriptions listed in your letter dated May 2, 2014. Following each work description is the appropriate PW rate for the work described:

1. Concrete slab (on grade) finishing. The process includes installing concrete (while wet and workable) to specific elevations, and gradually finishing it to a more refined surface (usually by troweling consecutive times.)

The Cement Masons scope of work (WAC 296-127-01315) specifically speaks to “the setting of screeds, the rodding (buildings), shaping, smoothing and finishing of the surfaces of freshly poured concrete floors, walls, sidewalks, curbs, steps and stairways, the finishing of extruded barrier rails, or any other concrete surface requiring finishing, using hand tools or power tools, including floats, trowels, screeds and straightedge.” Accordingly, the prevailing wage for Cement Masons is required for this work.

2. Patching and finishing a large surface of patched holes. Traditionally, this work process would be classified as “sacking” (the rubbing of a sand and cement mixture with a burlap rag on the patched surface.) However, due to the advances in concrete repair technology and the development of more efficient processes, sacking has been replaced with the following process:

The preparation of the surface is the same however, instead of sacking the surface we use an engineered cement such as Ardex, Raco or Mapei that is mixed together gradually with water (into a toothpaste like consistency) and troweled on the surface, using a trowel or other concrete finishing tool. This patching will be performed on surfaces that are finished surfaces and will be visible to the eye (above grade) or where the surface has to be finished nice enough to paint over. This process will be performed on a large surface of patched holes \*Please see enclosed pictures.\*

The new method you describe is used in the same fashion as the old sacking method but without the burlap sack. Instead a traditional concrete trowel is used. The scope of work for Cement Masons clarifies that sacking refers to “The finishing of a large surface of patched holes,” which also describes this newer method. The use of a traditional sacking technique is not necessary for the provision regarding sacking to apply. Cement Masons are commonly referred to as “cement finishers.” Additionally, the Cement Masons scope states that this prevailing wage is applied where workers “perform all work where finishing tools are used.” Accordingly, the Cement Mason prevailing wage is required for this work.

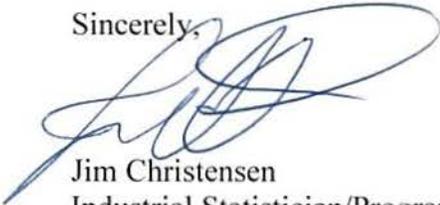
3. Patching or plugging of holes for the areas that are not seen such as concrete foundations that will be back-filled with dirt. This work will be completed by packing a cement based patching material into the hole by hand with a rubber glove. No finishing tools will be used.

The Laborers scope of work (WAC 296-127-01344) includes patching holes with fresh concrete or epoxy compound when not preparatory to sacking. The Cement Masons scope of work (WAC 296-127-01315) includes patching holes with fresh concrete or epoxy compound preparatory to sacking. Since your question specifically excludes patching of holes in concrete where finishing procedures will be performed or finishing tools used, this work falls under the Laborers scope for prevailing wage purposes.

Again, this determination addresses specific facts. If the facts vary, the answer could be different.

I appreciate your interest in Prevailing Wage compliance and hope that this information will be helpful in the future. If you have any further questions please let me know.

Sincerely,



Jim Christensen  
Industrial Statistician/Program Manager  
[Jim.Christensen@lni.wa.gov](mailto:Jim.Christensen@lni.wa.gov)  
(360) 902-5330

Enc:



PACIFIC NORTHWEST  
18644 72ND AVENUE SOUTH  
KENT, WA 98032  
PH: 425.251.1684  
FX: 425.251.6548  
LIC.# CONCOCCO44LS

Main Office  
5141 Commercial Circle  
Concord, CA 94590  
PH: 925.685.6777  
FX: 925.685.6851  
Lic.# 199902

Southern California  
13052 Balboa Street  
Fontana, CA 92337  
PH: 909.350.0174  
FX: 909.350.0175  
Lic.# 199902

May 2, 2014

Jim Christensen  
Dept. of Labor and Industries

RE: Concrete patching

Conco is considering bidding Odle Middle School in Bellevue. We would like some clarification from Labor and Industries about what would be the proper prevailing wage rates before submitting a bid.

Among the items we intend to bid include:

1. Concrete slab (on grade) finishing- The process includes installing concrete (while wet and workable) to specific elevations, and gradually finishing it to a more refined surface (usually by troweling consecutive times). What is the applicable prevailing wage rate for this scope of work?

2. Conco will also be patching and finishing a large surface of patched holes. Traditionally, this work process would be classified as "Sacking" (the rubbing of a sand and cement mixture with a burlap rag on the patched surface.) However, due to advances in concrete repair technology and the development of more efficient processes, Sacking has been replaced with the following process:

The preparation of the surface is the same however, instead of Sacking the surface, we use an engineered cement such as Ardex, Raco, or Mapei that is mixed together generally with water (into a toothpaste like consistency) and troweled on to the surface, using a trowel or other concrete finishing tool. This patching will be performed on surfaces that are finished surfaces and will be visible to the eye (above grade) or where the surface has to be finished nice enough to paint over. This process will be performed on a large surface of patched holes \*please see attached pictures\*. What is the applicable prevailing wage rate for this scope of work?

3. Patching or plugging of holes for areas that are not seen such as concrete foundations that will be back-filled with dirt. This work will be completed by packing a cement based patching material into the hole by hand with a rubber glove. No finishing tools will be used. What is the applicable prevailing wage rate for this scope of work?

We appreciate your response to this request, it will help insure that we bid the correct Prevailing wage rate and that we are in compliance with RCW 39.12.

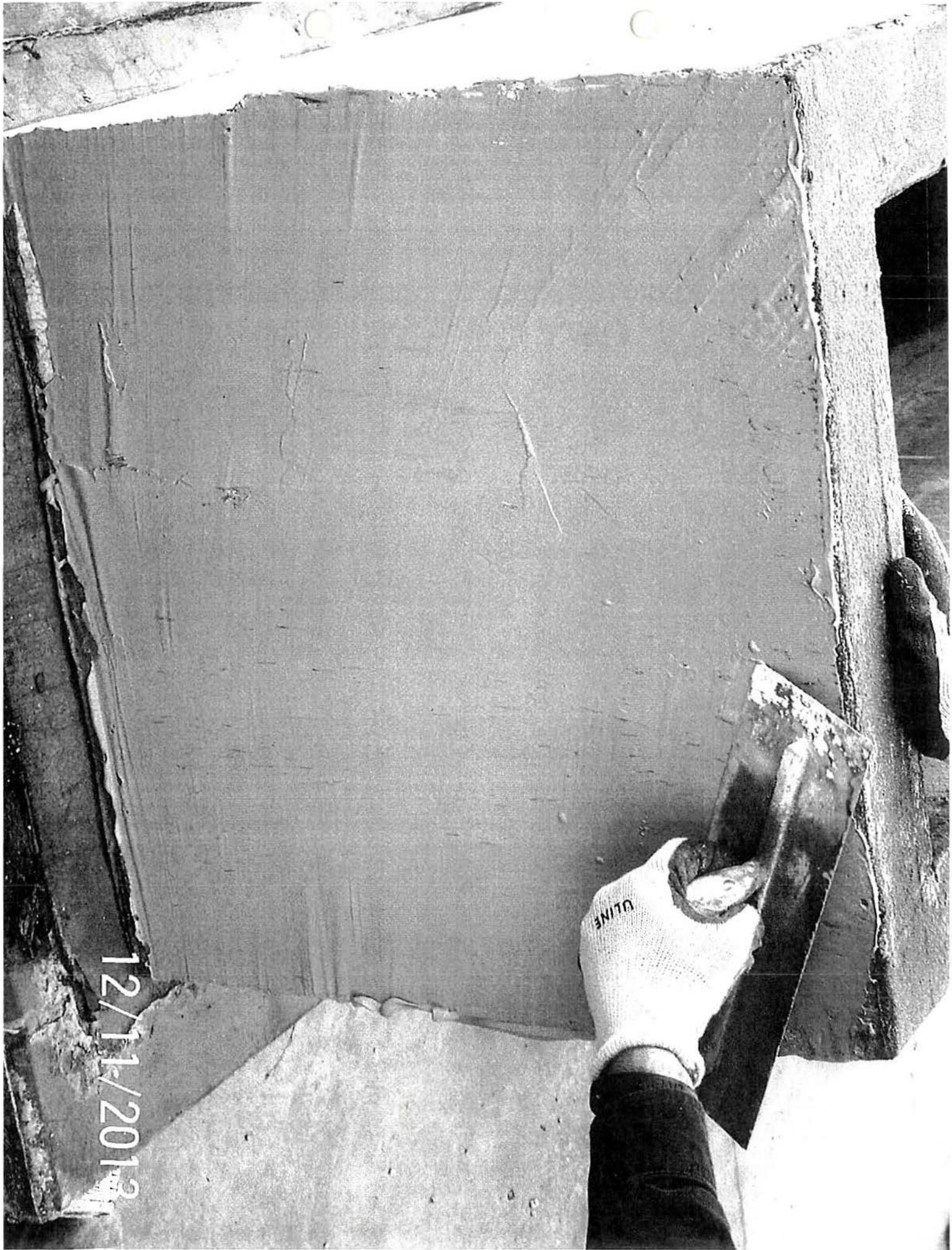
Sincerely,

The Conco Companies

Russ Soeters



12/11/2013



12/11/2013

