

**EMPLOYMENT STANDARDS PROGRAM  
PREVAILING WAGE SECTION  
SPECIALTY COMPLIANCE SERVICES DIVISION  
POST OFFICE BOX 44540, OLYMPIA, WA 98504-4540**

January 7, 2005

Steve Zuercher  
Plasterers Local Union No. 82  
12812 Northeast Marx Street  
Portland, Oregon 97230

Dear Mr. Zuercher:

This is in response to various pieces of correspondence and discussions that I have had with you and others from your organization requesting a determination of whether the “Fireproofing of all metal framed buildings, ie. decks[,] columns and beams, is in-fact classified as the work of a Plasterer.”

In making a determination for the appropriate prevailing wage classification the department looks to the Prevailing Wage Law (Chapter 39.12 RCW and Chapter 296-127 WAC). In making this determination, I reviewed the Scope of Work descriptions for Painters (WAC 296-127-01356) and Plasterers (WAC 296-127-01360). In addition, you provided me with a great deal of information that was also helpful in making this determination. Lastly and based on your advice, I also spoke with the Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries about this request as well.

Under the Painters Scope of Work, this classification may perform work involving the “Application of sprayed on fire retardant foam.” Under the Plasterers Scope of Work, this classification may perform work involving “The fireproofing of all building assemblies with plaster materials, sprayed fiberglass or similar materials, whether applied to gypsum, metal lath or directly.” It is my understanding that the question has been raised as to whether both of these phrases/scopes allow for the same type of work (fireproofing applications) or if they mean something different.

Based on the plain language of the two Scopes of Work and the information you have provided, it is my determination that the two aforementioned phrases do refer to different types of work. In the information that you provided fire proofing was described as the application of fire resistive coatings consisting of plaster, cement, and other aggregates. On the other hand, the application of fire retardant foam was described as the application of coatings such as paints, varnishes, and clear solutions that foam up in the presence of heat. The difference in there uses being that one (fire proofing) is designed to ensure that the coated material does not burn for a specified amount of time, whereas the other (fire retardant foam) is designed to reduce the surface burning characteristics of combustible materials (wood).

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Based on the information that has been provided to date it is my determination that the fireproofing work that you described is that of the Plasterer.

I feel that I should also mention, that this determination is consistent with how the State of Oregon applies their law.

I hope this letter serves to address your request.

Sincerely,

Josh Swanson  
Industrial Statistician  
Prevailing Wage Manager