



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIES

Prevailing Wage
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January 26, 2007

Mr. Doug Strand
Director of Organizing
Laborers Local 242
2800 First Avenue, Room 50
Seattle, WA 98121

Dear Mr. Strand:

Thank you for contacting me on behalf of the Hod Carriers and General Laborers Union and their question concerning clean-up of debris resulting from the work of drywall applicators.

I appreciate your assessment and evaluation of the situation. As you accurately note, labor classifications do clean-up work. Significantly, one of the labor classifications is carpenter tender. Carpenter tender meets the requirements noted in being able to clean-up after drywall applicators.

In this instance, the carpenter tenders clearly perform the work in question. It was suggested that carpenter tenders work is limited to wooden structures and fixtures. This is incorrect. Carpenter tenders assist carpenters with various duties which may include materials other than wood (see WAC 296-127-01310 and WAC 296-127-01312.) Therefore, as a designated classification under the carpenter trade, their clean-up falls under the carpenter classification and carpenters have tenders, carpenter tenders do the clean-up for both.

The suggestion that the Department should recognize industry practice and that the scopes should reflect them was also made. That is of course one factor that we consider under WAC 296-127-013 when creating the scopes. Once, however, a scope is in rule, industry must follow the rule.

Here, the carpenter tender scope covers the clean-up work of a drywaller. I believe that creating another scope or even a wage rate under an existing scope is not needed. Therefore, I see no need to establish either another scope or a "line-item rate" under the drywall applicator's scope.

The Department appreciates all of the information provided as well as the time and effort invested by everyone involved.

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I hope this serves to address your request. If you have additional questions or need further clarification, please contact my office at (360) 902-5330.

Sincerely,

David J. Soma

Industrial Statistician

Prevailing Wage Program Manager

cc: Bob Abbott, Washington and Northern Idaho District Council of Laborers