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Calendar Year 2016

- July 6, 2016. OES Wage Data Update Includes Updated BLS Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) Definitions**

As noted in the July 1, 2016 web announcement below, the National Prevailing Wage Center (NPWC) recently began using the 2017 wage data set provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), based on May 2015 Occupational Employment Statistics (OES) data. This data set is the first to use the 2010 BLS definitions of Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs), as designated by the Office of Management and Budget. As a result, some ETA-9141 prevailing wage request forms submitted prior to the NPWC's use of the new data and MSA definitions will incorrectly cite in subsection E.c.7a MSAs that have changed pursuant to the new definitions.

If an applicant's ETA-9141 Form lists a MSA that no longer exists due to the updated BLS area definitions, the NPWC will alter the text in E.c.7a to reflect the correct MSA and will include an additional note to notify the applicant that the NPWC has altered its form as a result of the update to the MSA definitions. In addition, some returning applicants seeking a prevailing wage determination (PWD) for multiple worksites will receive a different wage(s) than in prior years due to the BLS geographic area updates. For example, in prior years the areas of Somerset and Middlesex in New Jersey were included in the same MSA and thus received the same OES wage in a PWD. However, as a result of the BLS update, Somerset and Middlesex are included in separate BLS areas and PWDs issued for job opportunities in the areas will not be the same. Please direct any questions or comments regarding the effect of the BLS updates on the PWD process to the NPWC help desk via email at flc.pwd@dol.gov. The updated OES data sets may be viewed by visiting www.bls.gov/oes/tables.htm.

- July 1, 2016. OES Wage Data Update**

On July 1, 2016, OFLC uploaded the newest prevailing wage data from the Occupational Employment Survey as generated by the Bureau of Labor Statistics for the year from July 2016 - June 2017. The effective date is July 1, 2016. Prevailing wages issued from the National Prevailing Wage Center will reflect the new data.

- June 28, 2016. Webinar Update June 23, 2016: Employer Filing Tips for Submitting H-2A and H-2B Labor Certification Applications**

Copies of the OFLC's June 23rd presentation on filing tips and common deficiencies associated with the submission of applications for temporary labor certification under the H-2A and H-2B visa programs are now available.

- o To obtain a copy of the H-2A Filing Tips, please click [here](#).
- o To obtain a copy of the H-2B Filing Tips, please click [here](#).
- o To obtain a copy of the H-2B PWDs Filing Tips, please click [here](#).

- June 27, 2016.**

The Office of Foreign Labor Certification has posted updated Prevailing Wage disclosure data files for Quarter 4 of FY 2015. Click [here](#) to access the disclosure files and corresponding record layouts.

- June 8, 2016. Webinar Announcement: Employer Filing Tips for Submitting H-2A and H-2B Labor Certification Applications**

As part of the Department's Office of Foreign Labor Certification's (OFLC) on-going efforts for increased public outreach, the OFLC will host a public webinar on June 23, 2016, to educate stakeholders, program users, and other interested members of the public on best practices, filing tips, and common deficiencies associated with the submission of applications for temporary labor certification under the H-2A and H-2B visa programs. Our objective for this webinar is to provide technical assistance to employers and, if applicable their authorized representatives to avoid frequent or common errors in preparing and submitting H-2A and H-2B applications.

To join the webinar event scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2016, please use the below instructions:

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2016

TIME: 2:00PM - 3:30PM EST

Call-in number: 888-469-0871

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Go to or click on: <https://dolevents.webex.com/dolevents/onstage/g.php?MTID=e83537a74c16bc53cb6b5c930f48eff95>
2. If prompted, please enter the appropriate contact information (first name, last name, email address)
3. If prompted, enter the event password: Welcome!24
4. Click on "Join Now"
5. To join and hear the audio, please dial the toll-free number 888-469-0871 and enter access code: 27423 to hear the audio portion of the webinar or use the audio function of the Web Ex software to stream audio.

- May 18, 2016. ETA Announces it is Streamlining the H-2A Process for Agricultural Employers: Procedural Change to the Form ETA-9142A, Appendix A**

OFLC is pleased to announce that the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) has approved the Department's request to update the Appendix A in two ways: (1) to reflect new regulatory requirements contained in the 2015 H-2A Herder Final Rule; and (2) to simplify the H-2A process for employers submitting this document alongside their I-129 petitions to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). This approval came as part of the Department's 3-year extension of the Form ETA-9142A and Appendix A. The remainder of the data collected on the Form ETA-9142A remains unchanged.