# Small Business REQUIREMENTS & RESOURCES









Brought to you by the Small Business Liaison Office







# Some (of the Many) Programs We Administer

- Workers' compensation insurance
- Employment standards / wage & hour rules
- Workplace health & safety
- Contractor registration
- Electrician & plumber licensing

- Electrical permits
- Elevator permits
- Factory assembled structures
- Prevailing Wage
- Apprenticeships

# Keep Washington Safe & Working



Brought to you by the Asst.
Small Business Liaison,
Andrew Bryan
(And the number five)





# **Workers' Comp High Fives Highlights**

- 1. Independent contractors versus employees
- 2. Verify tool
- 3. Adding new risk classes
- 4. Tips for handling claims
- 5. Stay at Work program

# **Independent Contractors**

#### Your contractor may be a covered worker unless they are...

- Free from your direction and control
- ✓ In business for themselves.
- Have all required business licenses
- ✓ Pay state & federal business taxes
- Have multiple clients
- Maintain own books/records

Determination on a case-by-case basis available: (360) 902-6868 • Determinations@Lni.wa.gov

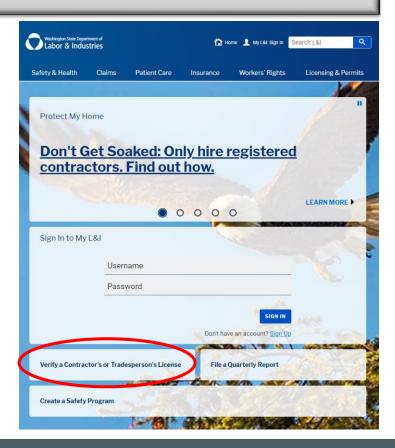


# **Verify Tool: Find Rates & More**

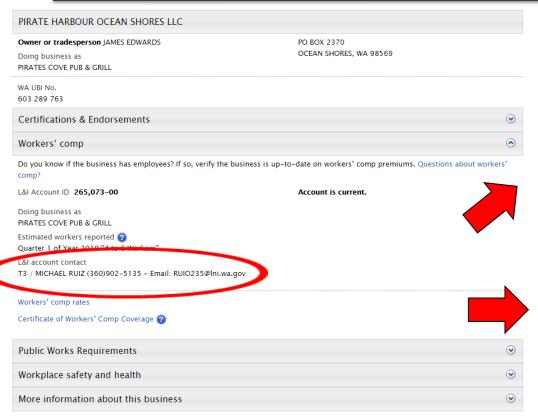
#### Find:

- ✓ Risk class
- ✓ Certificate of coverage
- ✓ Workers' compensation rates
- ✓ Account manager contact info

https://secure.lni.wa.gov/verify/



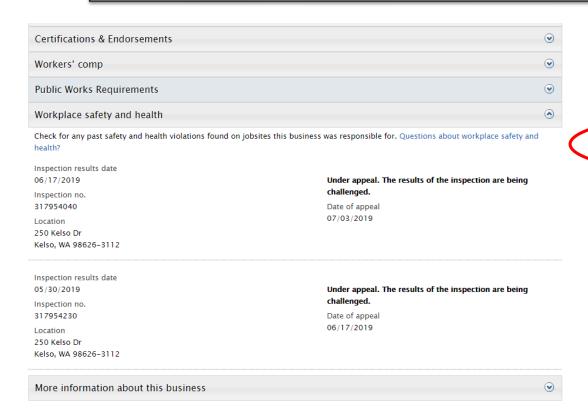
# **Verify: Account Info, Rates, Certificate**







# Verify the Good, the Bad, the Ugly





# **Employer's Role During a Claim**

Started. Connected.

# **Employer**

Worker

Medical Provider

L&I (Claim Manager)

**Online Claim File Access:** 

www.Lni.wa.gov/ClaimInfo

# **L&I Return to Work Program**

# Early Return to Work – Get help offering light duty www.Lni.wa.gov/ReturnToWorkHelp

L&I staff will help you create a light duty job approved by doctor

#### **Stay at Work**

www.Lni.wa.gov/StayAtWork 1-866-406-2482

Reimbursement incentives to bring your employee back to light duty work

#### **Preferred Worker Program**

www.Lni.wa.gov/PreferredWorker 1-800-845-2634

Financial incentives to hire certified workers with "permanent medical restrictions"



Brought to you by the Small Business Liaison, Celia Nightingale





# **Employment Standards High Fives Highlights**

- 1. Equal Pay Act
- 2. Minimum wage
- 3. Overtime rules
- 4. Paid sick leave
- 5. Isolated worker protections

# **Equal Pay Act**

- Provide equal pay and career advancement opportunities without regard to gender
- Can't mandate salary/wage secrecy
- Can't ask for salary history from applicants
- If 15+ employees:
  - New employee: must disclose minimum of salary range upon job offer, if asked
  - Current employee: must disclose full range or expectation, if asked



# **Washington Minimum Wage**

- \$13.50/hour in 2020
  - Can pay 85% of MW to 14 & 15 year-olds
- 2021 and each subsequent year rises by inflation rate
- Tips & service charges in addition to wage
- Regional variances:
  - Seattle: \$13.50-\$16.39
  - SeaTac: \$16.09 (hospitality & transportation workers)



# **Noncompetition Covenants- Effective 1/1/2020**

- Can't restrict outside employment or self-employment unless paid more than 2x minimum wage
  - Other than scheduling or clear conflict of interest
- Non-compete agreements
  - Only allowed with employees paid \$100K+ (adjusts with inflation)
  - 18 months maximum
  - Doesn't affect other agreements, such as nondisclosure, confidentiality, nonsolicitation
- Franchisors can't restrict their franchisees from recruiting each other's employees

#### **Overtime**

# 1.5 x hourly wage for hours beyond 40 hours/week

- Must pay overtime unless worker's position meets a specific exemption in the law
- Most common exemption "white collar"
  - Duties Test
    - Executive, administrative, professional, outside sales, computer professionals
  - Salary Test
    - Paid a regular salary
    - Paid at least a defined minimum salary



# **Recent Changes to Overtime Rules**

- Federal minimum exempt salary increased to \$35,568, effective 1/1/2020
- State minimum exempt salary will increase to 2.5 times minimum wage
  - Increases gradually over period 7/1/2020–1/1/2028
  - Impact begins 1/1/2021

Effective Date	Minimum Exempt Salary Small Employers (1-50 Employees)	Minimum Exempt Salary Large Employers (51+ Employees)
1/1/2020	\$35,568 (\$684/week)	\$35,568 (\$684/week)
1/1/2021	1.5 x minimum wage (~\$43,004 or \$827/wk)	1.75 x minimum wage (~\$50,180, or \$965/wk)
1/1/2022	1.75 x minimum wage (~\$51,272 or \$986/wk)	1.75 x minimum wage (~\$51,272 or \$986/wk)



#### **Paid Sick Leave**

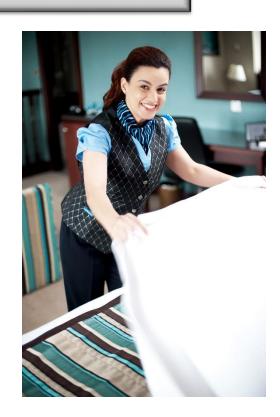
- Must provide at least 1 hour of paid sick leave per 40 hours of work
  - = .025 hours of sick leave per 1 hour of work
- Includes part-time and temporary employees
- Accrual begins immediately on hire
  - Can require 90 calendar days for use
- Employees may use for self or family health, child's school or daycare health-related closures, or absences related to domestic violence

#### Paid Sick Leave – Notifications & Statements

- Must provide notification of paid sick leave at hire
- Must provide regular statements, at least monthly, including
  - Amount of paid sick leave accrued
  - Amount used
  - Balance remaining
- Must carry over the balance, up to 40 hours, from one year to the next
- Must reinstate balance at rehire, if within a year

#### **Isolated Worker Protections**

- Effective Jan. 1, 2020 in the following industries:
  - Hotels, motels, retail, security guard services, and janitorial services
- Employers with isolated workers must:
  - Adopt a sexual harassment policy
  - Provide mandatory training
  - Provide a list of resources for employees to utilize
  - Provide a panic button to each employee
    - (Does not apply to contracted security guard companies)









# Safety & Health/Resources Highlights

- 1. Division of Occupational Safety & Health (DOSH)
- 2. Accident Prevention Program (APP)
- 3. Consultation services
- 4. Customer service
- 5. Learning opportunities

# What's Wrong With This Picture?



# What's Wrong With This Picture?



# Division of Occupational Safety & Health

(DOSH)

WISHA (WA Industrial Safety & Health Act) gives L&I the following responsibilities to oversee workplace safety and health in Washington:

- Developing safety and health rules
- Offering free training, safety and health programs, and other resources to help prevent, find, and fix hazards
- Providing no-fee on-site consultations to help employers create safe and healthy workplaces
- Enforcing rules by inspecting worksites for unsafe working conditions
- Investigating safety discrimination complaints & serious incidents



# **APP – Accident Prevention Program**

#### Employers are required to have an Accident Prevention Program that is:

- Customized for the business
- Written and kept up-to-date
- Communicated to employees at hire and through regular meetings
- Actively practiced

#### See L&I's website for:

- Sample programs
- Tips on identifying hazards
- Resources for safety meetings



#### **DOSH Consultation**

Consultation is a proactive approach to prevent workplace injuries.

Consultants help employers understand and comply with workplace safety and health rules, protect employees, and lower workers' comp costs.

Four no-fee and confidential consultation services available:

- 1. Safety
- 2. Industrial Hygiene
- 3. Ergonomics
- 4. Risk Management



### Call or schedule a consultation online

- NW Washington 425-290-1369
- King County 206-835-1065
- Pierce County/Olympic Peninsula 253-596-3917
- Southwest Washington 360-575-6951
- Central/Eastern Washington 509-886-6570

More info:

www.Lni.wa.gov/Safety/Consultation

# **Customer Service: No Wrong Door**

# Front Counter at 19 Regional Offices



**Office locations:** 

www.Lni.wa.gov/Offices

#### Assist you:

- WA Business License Application
- Contractor Registration
- Permits: electrical, food trucks, etc.
- Anything L&I



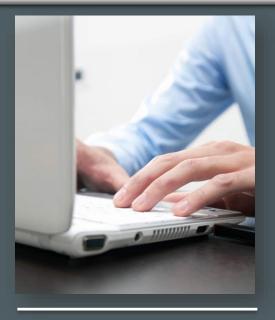
# **Customer Service Options**

#### Available 24/7

#### **Online Resources & Transactions**

- Electrical licenses or permits
- Certifications: plumber, trainee cards, installers
- Claim filing & status
- Workers' comp payment
- Contractors & businesses information
- Many more

# www.Lni.wa.gov



Web customer support Office hours: 8 am - 5 pm Phone: (360) 902-5999 WebSupport@lni.wa.gov

#### Scams to Watch Out For

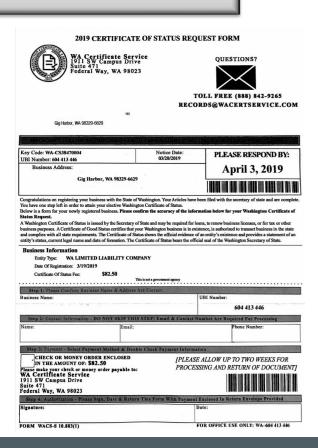
#### **State of Washington Workplace Posters**

- Free from each issuing state or federal agency
- Private companies posing as state/federal agencies

#### **Certificate of Status Request Form**

- Targets newly registered businesses
- Secretary of State

Report misleading advertisements WA State Office of the Attorney General



# **L&I Workshop & Training Center**

#### L&I Workshop & Training Center

Workshops Training & Education Online Courses Certification Other Resources

- L&I Essentials for Business
- Other training topics
  - ✓ Safety & Health
  - ✓ Workers' Compensation
  - Construction Contractor
- Receive Training Calendar:
  - www.lni.wa.gov.TrainingCalendar



www.lni.wa.gov/Workshops

