

Elevating Your Employee Experience

For Founders and Administrative Leaders









NLRB MOU with the DOL



Memorandum of Understanding Between The U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, and the National Labor Relations Board

DOL / WHD Enforces:

- Federal Minimum Wage
- Migrant / Seasonal Agricultural
- Wage Garnishments

- Overtime Pay
- Employee Polygraph Protection
- Davis Bacon Act

- Recordkeeping
- Consumer Credit Protection Act
- Service Contract Act

- Child Labor
- Family and Medical Leave Act



Emphasis on worker misclassification (both independent contractor and jointemployment relationships) and retaliation.

DOL Renewed Emphasis on Employee Self-Reporting









Exempt vs. Non-Exempt



- Employees whose jobs are governed by the FLSA are either "exempt" or "nonexempt."
- Nonexempt employees are entitled to overtime pay
- Exempt employees are not entitled to overtime pay

DOL Exempt Salary Threshold



- Current \$684 a week(\$35,568 annualized)
- July 1, 2024: \$844 a week (\$43,888 per year)
- January 1, 2025: \$1,128 a week (\$58,656 per year)
- Additional changes included in the proposal:
 - Adjustments to the exempt duties tests
 - Automatic, periodic increases to the salary threshold based on market data and / or
 - An additional rate increase for highly compensated employees
 (current "highly compensated employees" who earn at least \$107,432 are subject to a reduced
 duties test)



The new rules are being challenged through the courts – stay on the lookout!

Non-Exempt Employees



- Minimum Wage: SC/Federal minimum wage = \$7.50 per hour
 - Non-Exempt
 - Exempt
- Overtime: All hours worked over 40 each workweek = 1.5 regular rate of pay
- Hours Worked: Hours worked ordinarily include all the time during which an employee is required to be on the employer's premises, on duty, or at a prescribed workplace.

Job Classification



- Factors:
 - How much they are paidSalaryHow they are paidBasis Tes
 - ✓ What kind of work they do Job Duties Test
- Some jobs are classified as exempt by definition for example
 - Outside sales = exempt
 - Inside sales = employees are nonexempt

Salary Test



- A predetermined amount of compensation each pay period on a weekly, or less frequent, basis.
- Cannot reduce pay because of variations in the quality or quantity of the work.
- Based on specific facts and circumstances
- The base pay of a salary basis employee may not be reduced if s/he performs less work than normal



Must receive the full salary for any week in which the employee performs any work, regardless of the number of days or hours worked.

Helix Energy Solutions – February 2023



- U.S. Supreme Court
- Supervisor was paid a daily rate worked 28 days in a row (12 hours each day) and 28 days off
- Plaintiff met "duties test"
- Earned more than \$200,000
- Court ruled he was not exempt from the overtime provisions of the FLSA



Holding: because the employee was not paid on a salary basis, the employee was not exempt and was entitled to overtime pay.

The Duties Test



- These FLSA exemptions are limited to employees who perform specific job duties and work
- Job titles and job descriptions are irrelevant
 - A secretary is still a secretary even if s/he is called an "administrative assistant,"
 - The chief executive officer is still the CEO even if s/he is called a janitor
 - The Janitor is still a janitor if called Chief Environmental Officer
- It is the actual job tasks that must be evaluated, along with how the particular job tasks "fit" into the employer's overall operations.
- Whether the duties of a particular job qualify as exempt depends on what they are
- Three typical categories of exempt job duties
 - Executive
 - 2. Professional
 - Administrative

Independent Contractor – Who's Asking?



- Department of Labor

 Fair Labor Standards Act
- The Courts → Common Law

DOL Independent Contractor Test



Multifactor, totality-of-the-circumstances analysis to determine whether a worker is an employee or an independent contractor under the FLSA.

Practical Considerations

- The factors under the rule overlap with the most recent/previous rule
- Still considers the nature and degree of control of the principal and the individual's opportunity for profit and loss
- The DOL rule doesn't bind federal courts which means caselaw precedent still applies
- Many states have their own standard Example FL defers to the federal DOL

The Courts – Common Law



- Source of the instrumentalities and tools
- Location of the work
- Duration of the relationship between the parties
- Right to assign additional projects to the worker party
- Worker's discretion over when and how long to work
- Method of payment
- Worker's role in hiring and paying assistants
- Work is part of the regular business of the hiring party
- the provision of <u>employee</u> benefits
- tax treatment of the hired party

IRS – Agency Principles



- Control is the central inquiry
 - Behavioral control
 - Financial control
 - Relationship of the parties

IRS Control Factors



Behavioral

- When, where and how to work
- What equipment to use
- What workers to hire or to assist with the work
- Where to purchase supplies and services
- What work must be performed by a specified individual
- What order or sequence to follow

Financial

- Cost of expenses
- The extent of the contractor's investment
- Services to the competition
- Basis for payment to the contractor
- Opportunity/risk for profit and loss
- Who provides "tools of the trade"

Structure

- Written contract
- Employee benefits
- Permanency of the relationship
- How integral the services are to the principal activity.

Penalties and Costs of Misclassification



- Back payroll taxes, plus penalties and interest
- Court time and costs for any related litigation
- Out-of-court settlements
- Criminal sanctions, including imprisonment and fines
- Personal liability for corporate officers up to 100% of the amount the employer should have withheld in payroll taxes
- Invalidation of benefit plans
- Overtime pay under the Fair Labor Standards Act
- Retirement benefits
- Employee benefits
- Workers' compensation benefits
- Unemployment claims

Example 1



News Release

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OBTAINS JUDGMENT IN RECOVERY OF \$650K FOR 26 DRIVERS MISCLASSIFIED AS INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS BY ROMERO'S FOOD PRODUCTS INC.

Food manufacturer denied employees overtime wages, other worker rights, protections

SANTA FE SPRINGS, CA – The U.S. Department of Labor has obtained a consent judgment as part of its efforts to recover \$650,000 in unpaid overtime wages for 26 delivery drivers of a Santa Fe Springs food manufacturer that misclassified them as independent contractors exempt from overtime.

The action by the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California requires Romero's Food Products Inc. to pay back wages to the affected employees. The court also forbid the company permanently from future <u>Fair Labor Standards Act</u> violations and prohibited Romero from employing any worker for more than 40 hours in a workweek without paying them required overtime pay. The court entered the judgment in April 2023.

The department's litigation follows an investigation by the department's <u>Wage and Hour Division</u> that found that, by misclassifying the drivers as independent contractors, Romero's Food Products denied them the overtime rate required for hours over 40 in a workweek. The company employed the drivers to distribute its products to Walmart, Costco, Albertson's, Stater Bros. Markets and other retail grocery outlets. Romero's also failed to maintain accurate employee records.

Example 2



News Release

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR RECOVERS \$158K IN BACK WAGES, DAMAGES FOR 91 WORKERS AT CALIFORNIA WAREHOUSE AFTER EMPLOYER FAILED TO PAY WORKERS

DRE Health Corp. hired extra workers to meet demand for COVID-19 masks

BUENA PARK, CA – A U.S. Department of Labor investigation recovered \$158,096 in back wages and liquidated damages for employees of a global medical products manufacturer that failed to pay workers, putting many of them at risk of being unable to provide for their basic needs.

The department's <u>Wage and Hour Division</u> found DRE Health Corp. – operating as DRE WorldMask USA Ltd. – violated the <u>Fair Labor Standards Act</u> when it wrongfully <u>misclassified warehouse workers</u> in Orange County as independent contractors and failed to pay them the wages and overtime pay they earned.

The investigation led to the recovery of \$79,048 in back wages and an equal amount of \$79,048 in liquidated damages for 91 workers. The division also assessed \$4,936 in penalties against the employer.

Correction Considerations



- Back-wages/unpaid overtime?
- Make whole for 401k?
- Make whole for employee benefits?

OR

Start from scratch?

Our mission

To help businesses succeed so communities prosper





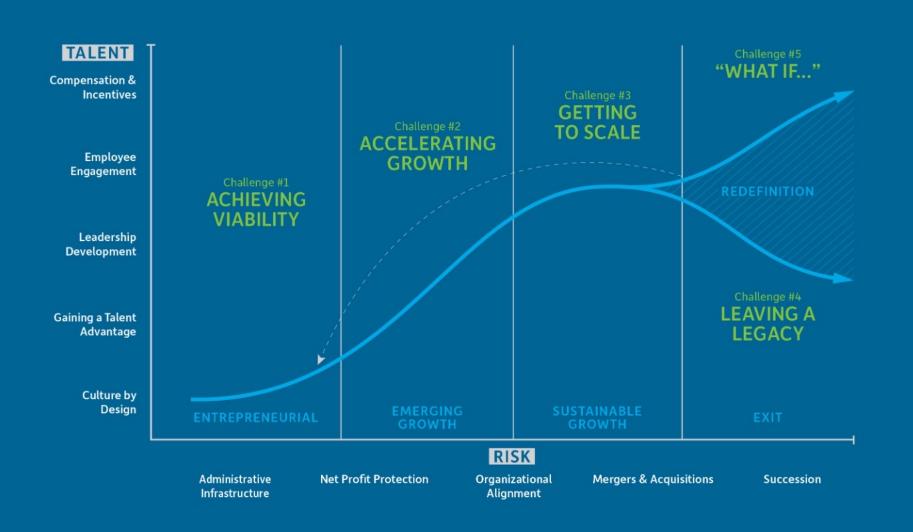
"Culture is like the oil in the engine that makes it all run smoothly but effectively. It's where you get the power. If you don't have oil in the engine, everything breaks down and locks up and you can't move."

fail on la.

Paul J. Sarvadi Chairman and CEO Insperity

Where is your business going?

JOIN A PEO THAT CAN MAXIMIZE YOUR PRODUCTIVITY AND PROFITABILITY



What can a professional employer organization (PEO) do for your business?

#1 – Access to Comprehensive Benefit Plans

 Your employees gain access to comprehensive benefit plans comparable to those found at large companies.

Fortune 500 benefits access

- Health Insurance
- 401K Retirement Plans
- Health Care FSA/HSA Programs
 - Life/Disability Insurance





INSPERITY TREND VS. KAISER ANNUAL HEALTH SURVEY TRENDS

Insperity's benefit plans are structured and managed for maximum cost efficiency. Over the last 10 years, the annual benefits costs incurred by Insperity have compared favorably to the Kaiser Family Foundation Health Benefit Survey data by an average of approximately 1% per year.



The trend lines above compare the year-over-year percentage change in the benefits costs incurred by Insperity to the year-over-year percentage change in the combined average annual premiums for single and family coverages as published in the Kaiser Family Foundation Employer Health Benefits Survey. Insperity's benefits costs are comprised primarily of health insurance premiums and claims costs (including dental and pharmacy costs), but also include costs of other employee benefits, such as life insurance, vision care, disability insurance, education assistance, a flexible spending account program and a work-life program. The trends reported are primarily based on the overall experience of the Insperity Group Health Plan and are not reflective of past changes or a guarantee of future changes to a client's comprehensive service fee.

#2 – Relief from Payroll & HR Admin. Overload

- Pass off many of your daily HR
 Duties administering benefits,
 managing employee paperwork,
 processing payroll and tax
 reporting to a group that
 specializes in HR!
- Payroll Processing
- Tax Reporting & Deposits
- Paycheck/paystub
- Garnishments







#3 – HR-Related Government Compliance Assistance

- It's Insperity's job to constantly monitor changes to state and federal labor laws that could affect your business, as well as advise you on what actions you need to take to comply.
- Unemployment Claims Administration
- OSHA
- Employment Verifications (I-9 / E-verify)

#4 – Workers' Compensation coverage and claim resolution

- Specialists will guide you through the process surrounding work – related injuries, including monitoring claims and assisting injured workers' return to work.
 - Workers' Compensation Coverage
 - Safety Programs
 - Claim Management
 - Return-to-work Programs







#5 —

A GO-TO team of experienced HR professionals

- Whether you need help with feuding employees or an EEOC claim investigation, Insperity employs knowledgeable professionals who can provide guidance on sensitive employee-related issues.
 - Employee-Relations Support
 - EEOC investigation, Reporting and Mediation
 - Employee Training & Development
 - Employee Handbooks/policies/etc.





PROOF THAT PEOS WORK

10%

Small businesses that use a PEO have an employment growth rate that's nearly 10 percent higher than : small businesses that don't.

10-14 50%

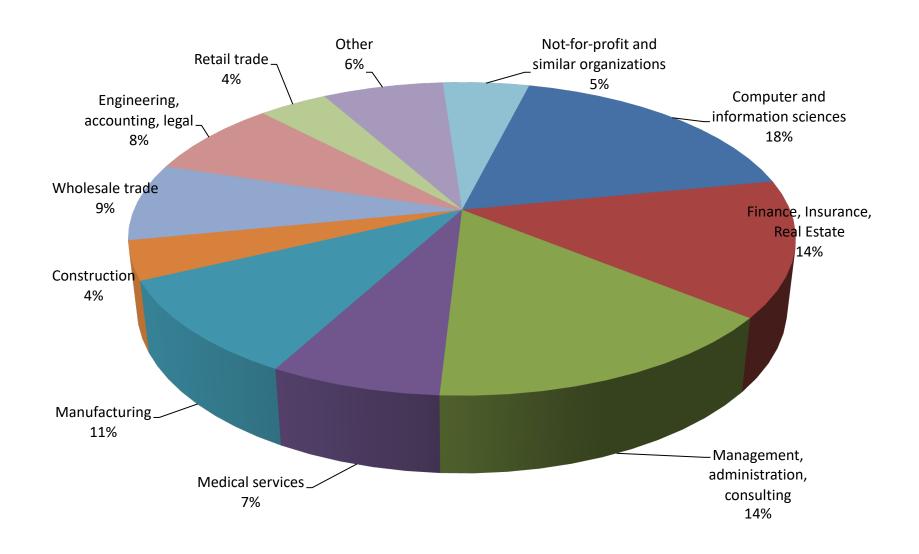
The employee turnover rate for PEO clients is 10 to 14 percentage points lower per year than that of comparable companies.

Businesses that use PEOs are approximately 50 percent less likely to go out of business from one year to the next.†





Workforce Optimization Client Mix





Thank you,

Meghan Fleming

Certified Business Performance Advisor

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