



Cherie Berry
Commissioner of Labor

About the Department

Under state law, the N.C. Department of Labor is responsible for promoting the health, safety and general well-being of more than 4 million workers. The laws and programs the department administers affect every worker—and virtually every person—in the state.

The state constitution provides for the statewide election of a labor commissioner every four years. The commissioner heads the Labor Department and serves as a member of the Council of State. State law gives the commissioner broad regulatory and enforcement powers to carry out the department's duties and responsibilities.

DOL history dates back to 1891, when the General Assembly created the Bureau of Labor Statistics. In a reorganization of labor function in 1931, the General Assembly laid the groundwork for the department's transformation into an agency with laws and programs affecting most state citizens.

DOL divisions and bureaus carry out its principal regulatory, enforcement and informational programs.

The Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission of North Carolina operates independently from the department. The commission, whose members are appointed by the governor, hears appeals of citations and penalties imposed by the Occupational Safety and Health Division.

DOL serves the workplace. Its programs, as well as the information it makes available, help industry managers, small business owners, manufacturing employees and all those who work in North Carolina perform their work safely. For details about DOL pro-

grams, call 1-800-625-2267 (1-800-NC-LABOR) or, in the Raleigh area, 733-7166.

Divisions and Bureaus

The **Apprenticeship and Training Bureau** promotes and monitors a broad range of apprenticeship programs that train journeyman-level craftworkers to meet the demand for high-skilled workers. In 2006, more than 15,000 North Carolinians were enrolled in these private industry-supported programs. Apprenticeship programs are sponsored through private employers or under joint labor-management committees.

The bureau encourages high school student apprentices and high school graduates to pursue training for career-development potential. Apprentices begin at a fixed percentage of journeyman pay and receive planned wage increases as they learn new skills.

The bureau also designs and implements other employment and training programs. These include developing individualized or group models, pilots of demonstration programs, and developing new processes or tools.

The **Boiler Safety Bureau** enforces the Uniform Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act of North Carolina. The bureau regulates pressure vessels subject to the law. The bureau conducts periodic inspections of vessels and monitors inspection reports.

The bureau maintains records on ownership, location and condition of boilers and pressure vessels being operated. It also issues operating certificates to boiler owners and operators who meet requirements. More than 95,000 boilers and pressure vessels are currently on record with the bureau.

The **Elevator and Amusement Device Bureau** oversees the installation and safe operation of all elevators, escalators, workman's hoists, dumbwaiters, moving walks, aerial passenger tramways, amusement rides, inclined railways, and lifting devices for people with disabilities that operate in public establishments (except federal buildings) and private places of employment. The bureau conducts more than 24,000 annual inspections. The bureau also approves plans and applications for equipment that falls under this jurisdiction.

The bureau conducts regular, periodic inspections of all ride-operating equipment in the state and provides technical assistance. The bureau also will review for architects and builders plans for proposed elevators and related equipment.

The **Employment Discrimination Bureau** enforces the Retaliatory Employment Discrimination Act. This 1992 law protects employees who in good faith file or initiate an inquiry in relation to workers' compensation claims or exercise their rights under the state's Occupational Safety and Health Act, the Mine Safety and Health Act, or the Wage and Hour Act.

The **Mine and Quarry Bureau** conducts a broad program of inspections, education and training, and technical assistance on the operation of mines and quarries. The bureau helps operators to train their employees in safe working procedures. About 430 private-sector mines, quarries, and sand and gravel pit operations that employ more than 4,500 citizens fall under the bureau's jurisdiction.

The **Occupational Safety and Health Division** administers a broad scope of workplace safety and health laws that apply to the private sector and all state and local government agencies. The Compliance Bureaus conduct about 5,000 inspections a year. The bureaus conduct investigations of employee complaints, investigations of work-related accidents and deaths, randomly scheduled site inspections, and follow-up inspections of companies previously cited for OSHA violations.

OSH offers free services to the 230,000 private and public employers under its jurisdiction through its Consultative Services Bureau. OSH also offers educational and engineering assistance through its Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau. This bureau also administers the state's Hazardous Chemicals Right-to-Know Act. Employers can contact the bureaus to receive free aid, including technical assistance or on-site visits.

The Agricultural Safety and Health Bureau inspects migrant housing to ensure it meets standards.

The survey unit of the **Research and Policy Division** collects, processes and publishes information on workplace injuries, illnesses and fatalities for statistical purposes and educational outreach. These data are used by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, department officials, state officials, public and private industries, the media, and interested citizens.

The **Wage and Hour Bureau** enforces laws that cover minimum wage, maximum hours, wage payment and child labor.

Wage payment provisions—which include the payment of promised vacation, sick pay or other benefits—cover all employees except those in federal, state and local government. The bureau investigates worker complaints and collects back wages owed to employees.

The bureau also licenses and regulates private personnel and job listing services. Companies that charge their clients must obtain a license from the department.

The bureau also monitors procedures used to test employees and job applicants for drug use.

The **DOL Library** offers more than 8,000 volumes, 80 periodical titles and 1,000 audiovisual items and electronic resources. The library's collection includes resources on the various topics regulated by the department. Videos are loaned free of charge, excluding return postage.



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For Further Information

Information	(919) 733-7166
Administration.....	(919) 733-0359
Agricultural Safety and Health.....	(919) 807-2923
Apprenticeship and Training.....	(919) 733-7533
Boiler Safety.....	(919) 807-2760
Budget and Management.....	(919) 733-7426
Communications.....	(919) 733-0363
Drug Testing Regulation.....	(919) 807-2796
Elevator and Amusement Device.....	(919) 807-2770
Employment Discrimination.....	(919) 807-2831
Human Resources.....	(919) 733-6943
Information Technology.....	(919) 733-9562
Library.....	(919) 807-2848
Mine and Quarry.....	(919) 807-2790
Occupational Safety and Health	
OSH Information.....	(919) 807-2971
To report accidents/file complaints.....	(919) 807-2796
Bureau of Consultative Services.....	(919) 807-2899
Safety Awards.....	(919) 807-2908
Carolina Star Program.....	(919) 807-2909
Bureau of Education, Training and	
Technical Assistance.....	(919) 807-2875
Bureau of Planning, Statistics and	
Information Management.....	(919) 807-2950
Bureau of Safety and Health Compliance	
Eastern Office (Raleigh).....	(919) 779-8570
Wilmington Office.....	(910) 251-2678
Western Office (Winston-Salem).....	(336) 776-4420
Asheville Office.....	(828) 299-8232
Charlotte Office.....	(704) 665-4341
Private Personnel and	
Job Listing Services.....	(919) 807-2796
Research and Policy.....	(919) 733-2758
Standards and Inspections.....	(919) 807-2780
Wage and Hour.....	(919) 807-2796
Youth Employment.....	(919) 807-2796

1-800-625-2267
www.nclabor.com

Raleigh area callers, please use local telephone numbers.



WELCOME

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