

# Texas State Postings



## CHILD LABOR LAWS

Texas Workforce Commission  
Wage and Hour Department, Child Labor Enforcement  
U.S. Department of Labor  
Wage and Hour Division

For further information about Texas child labor laws, call:

1-800-832-9242 or 1-800-372-2989

This poster provides general information about child labor laws in the state of Texas. It is not complete.

Chapter 51, Texas Labor Code, governs the employment of children under age 16.

The Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA) and the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Workers Protection Act (MSAWPA) also apply to children under age 16.

However, state and federal laws provide for certain exceptions. Please call TWC's Wage and Hour Department concerning specific questions about child labor laws.

The Labor Standards Act (LSTA) governs federal laws and guidelines pertaining to child labor. For information concerning federal child labor laws, contact your local office of the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division or call 1-866-487-3923.

### The following are prohibited occupations for 14- through 17-year-old children:

Prohibited occupations are the same for both federal and state law. The following occupations described by an asterisk (\*) have specific restrictions. If you are uncertain about an occupation or if you are not sure if it is prohibited, you must obtain a permit or written exemption before you begin work. Please call TWC's Wage and Hour Department concerning specific questions about these occupations.

To obtain a permit or written exemption, contact the nearest office of the U.S. Department of Labor.

Occupations declared particularly hazardous to the health or welfare of children under age 17 years of age include occupations:

(1) in or about plants or establishments from which retail establishments which manufacture or store explosives or articles containing explosive components, such as fireworks, may be operated;

(2) outside window washing that involves working window sills, and all work requiring the use of ladders, scaffolding or their substitutes;

(3) cooking, except with gas or electric grills that do not involve cooking over an open flame and with deep fat fryers that utilize shortening or oil at temperatures of 375° F or higher; the handles from the fryer must be secured to prevent them from being pulled down;

(4) baking and all activities involved in baking;

(5) reception which involves opening, setting up, adjusting, cleaning, or repairing power-driven food slicers and grinders, food choppers and cutters, and bakery-type mixers;

(6) meat packing, except with meat or poultry;

(7) in logging and sawmill operations and occupations involving firefighting and timber tracks;

(8) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven meat forming, pumping, and shearing machines;

(9) in connection with mining, other than coal;

(10) connected with coal mining;

(11) in logging and sawmill occupations and occupations involving firefighting and timber tracks;

(12) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven meat forming, pumping, and shearing machines;

(13) in connection with mining, other than coal;

(14) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven meat processing machines, and occupations including slaughtering, skinning, pickling, preserving, or rendering;

(15) in operating or assisting to operate power-driven bakery machines;

(16) "in the operation of power-driven paper products machines, belting, and compressors;

(17) in manufacturing brick, tile, and related products;

(18) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven saws, band-saws, band-saws and guillotine shears, abrasive cutting discs, reciprocating saws, chain saws, and wood-chippers;

(19) in working, demolishing, and striping operations;

(20) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven saws, band-saws, band-saws and guillotine shears, abrasive cutting discs, reciprocating saws, chain saws, and wood-choppers;

(21) in working, demolition, and striping operations;

(22) "in connection with excavation operations;

### Additional prohibited occupations that apply under state law:

(23) Occupations in retail sales and distribution by a child under 18 years of age. Consult 51.0145 Texas Labor Code for exceptions and requirements.

(24) Occupations in sexually oriented businesses by a child under 21 years of age.

### Additional prohibited occupations that apply only to 14- and 15-year-old children:

Occupations declared particularly hazardous or detrimental to the health or well-being of 14- and 15-year-old children include:

- (1) mining, manufacturing, or processing materials, including activities in warehouses or places where goods are manufactured, refined, or otherwise processed;
- (2) operating or assisting in operating power-driven machinery or building apparatus other than typical office machinery;

(3) work as a ride attendant or ride operator at an amusement park or a "despatch" at the top of elevated water slides;

(4) driving a motor vehicle or helping a driver;

(5) occupations involved in transporting persons or property by rail, highway, air, water, gondola, or other means;

(6) youth skating, sign writing, or door-to-door sales;

(7) poultry catching or cooping;

(8) helping to move or handle heavy objects weighing at least 50 pounds of age and properly certified to be a lifeguard at a traditional swimming pool or water amusement park;

(9) public messenger jobs;

(10) construction and public utility jobs;

(11) communications including demolition and asbestos removal, except for asbestos removal or in connection with the maintenance or repair of the establishment, machines, or equipment;

(12) outside window washing that involves working window sills, and all work requiring the use of ladders, scaffolding or their substitutes;

(13) cooking, except with gas or electric grills that do not involve cooking over an open flame and with deep fat fryers that utilize shortening or oil at temperatures of 375° F or higher; the handles from the fryer must be secured to prevent them from being pulled down;

(14) baking and all activities involved in baking;

(15) reception which involves opening, setting up, adjusting, cleaning, or repairing power-driven food slicers and grinders, food choppers and cutters, and bakery-type mixers;

(16) meat packing, except with meat or poultry;

(17) in logging and sawmill operations and occupations involving firefighting and timber tracks;

(18) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven meat forming, pumping, and shearing machines;

(19) in connection with excavation operations;

(20) "in the operation of power-driven paper products machines, belting, and compressors;

(21) in manufacturing brick, tile, and related products;

(22) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven saws, band-saws, band-saws and guillotine shears, abrasive cutting discs, reciprocating saws, chain saws, and wood-choppers;

(23) in working, demolition, and striping operations;

(24) "in operating or assisting to operate power-driven saws, band-saws, band-saws and guillotine shears, abrasive cutting discs, reciprocating saws, chain saws, and wood-choppers;

(25) in working, demolition, and striping operations;

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