

## § 778.109

“statutory exclusions.”) As stated by the Supreme Court in the Youngerman-Reynolds case cited above: “Once the parties have decided upon the amount of wages and the mode of payment the determination of the regular rate becomes a matter of mathematical computation, the result of which is unaffected by any designation of a contrary ‘regular rate’ in the wage contracts.”

### § 778.109 The regular rate is an hourly rate.

The “regular rate” under the Act is a rate per hour. The Act does not require employers to compensate employees on an hourly rate basis; their earnings may be determined on a piece-rate, salary, commission, or other basis, but in such case the overtime compensation due to employees must be computed on the basis of the hourly rate derived therefrom and, therefore, it is necessary to compute the regular hourly rate of such employees during each workweek, with certain statutory exceptions discussed in §§ 778.400 through 778.421. The regular hourly rate of pay of an employee is determined by dividing his total remuneration for employment (except statutory exclusions) in any workweek by the total number of hours actually worked by him in that workweek for which such compensation was paid. The following sections give some examples of the proper method of determining the regular rate of pay in particular instances: (The maximum hours standard used in these examples is 40 hours in a workweek).

### § 778.110 Hourly rate employee.

(a) *Earnings at hourly rate exclusively.* If the employee is employed solely on the basis of a single hourly rate, the hourly rate is his “regular rate.” For his overtime work he must be paid, in addition to his straight time hourly earnings, a sum determined by multiplying one-half the hourly rate by the number of hours worked in excess of 40 in the week. Thus a \$6 hourly rate will bring, for an employee who works 46 hours, a total weekly wage of \$294 (46 hours at \$6 plus 6 at \$3). In other words, the employee is entitled to be paid an amount equal to \$6 an hour for 40 hours and \$9 an hour for the 6 hours of overtime, or a total of \$294.

## 29 CFR Ch. V (7–1–04 Edition)

(b) *Hourly rate and bonus.* If the employee receives, in addition to his earnings at the hourly rate, a production bonus of \$9.20, the regular hourly rate of pay is \$6.20 an hour (46 hours at \$6 yields \$276; the addition of the \$9.20 bonus makes a total of \$285.20; this total divided by 46 hours yields a rate of \$6.20). The employee is then entitled to be paid a total wage of \$303.80 for 46 hours (46 hours at \$6.20 plus 6 hours at \$3.10, or 40 hours at \$6.20 plus 6 hours at \$9.30).

[46 FR 7309, Jan. 23, 1981]

### § 778.111 Pieceworker.

(a) *Piece rates and supplements generally.* When an employee is employed on a piece-rate basis, his regular hourly rate of pay is computed by adding together his total earnings for the workweek from piece rates and all other sources (such as production bonuses) and any sums paid for waiting time or other hours worked (except statutory exclusions): This sum is then divided by the number of hours worked in the week for which such compensation was paid, to yield the pieceworker’s “regular rate” for that week. For his overtime work the pieceworker is entitled to be paid, in addition to his total weekly earnings at this regular rate for all hours worked, a sum equivalent to one-half this regular rate of pay multiplied by the number of hours worked in excess of 40 in the week. (For an alternative method of complying with the overtime requirements of the Act as far as pieceworkers are concerned, see § 778.418.) Only additional half-time pay is required in such cases where the employee has already received straight-time compensation at piece rates or by supplementary payments for all hours worked. Thus, if the employee has worked 50 hours and has earned \$245.50 at piece rates for 46 hours of productive work and in addition has been compensated at \$5.00 an hour for 4 hours of waiting time, his total compensation, \$265.50 must be divided by his total hours of work, 50, to arrive at his regular hourly rate of pay—\$5.31. For the 10 hours of overtime the employee is entitled to additional compensation of \$26.55 (10 hours at \$2.655). For the week’s work he is thus entitled to a total of \$292.05 (which is

## Wage and Hour Division, Labor

## § 778.114

equivalent to 40 hours at \$5.31 plus 10 overtime hours at \$7.965).

(b) *Piece rates with minimum hourly guaranty.* In some cases an employee is hired on a piece-rate basis coupled with a minimum hourly guaranty. Where the total piece-rate earnings for the workweek fall short of the amount that would be earned for the total hours of work at the guaranteed rate, the employee is paid the difference. In such weeks the employee is in fact paid at an hourly rate and the minimum hourly guaranty which he was paid is his regular rate in that week. In the example just given, if the employee was guaranteed \$5.50 an hour for productive working time, he would be paid \$253 (46×\$5.50) for the 46 hours of productive work (instead of the \$245.50 earned at piece rates). In a week in which no waiting time was involved, he would be owed an additional \$2.75 (half time) for each of the 6 overtime hours worked, to bring his total compensation up to \$269.50 (46 hours at \$5.50 plus 6 hours at \$2.75 or 40 hours at \$5.50 plus 6 hours at \$8.25). If he is paid at a different rate for waiting time, his regular rate is the weighted average of the 2 hourly rates, as discussed in § 778.115.

[46 FR 7309, Jan. 23, 1981]

### § 778.112 Day rates and job rates.

If the employee is paid a flat sum for a day's work or for doing a particular job, without regard to the number of hours worked in the day or at the job, and if he receives no other form of compensation for services, his regular rate is determined by totaling all the sums received at such day rates or job rates in the workweek and dividing by the total hours actually worked. He is then entitled to extra half-time pay at this rate for all hours worked in excess of 40 in the workweek.

### § 778.113 Salaried employees—general.

(a) *Weekly salary.* If the employee is employed solely on a weekly salary basis, his regular hourly rate of pay, on which time and a half must be paid, is computed by dividing the salary by the number of hours which the salary is intended to compensate. If an employee is hired at a salary of \$182.70 and if it is understood that this salary is compensation for a regular workweek of 35

hours, the employee's regular rate of pay is \$182.70 divided by 35 hours, or \$5.22 an hour, and when he works overtime he is entitled to receive \$5.22 for each of the first 40 hours and \$7.83 (one and one-half times \$5.22) for each hour thereafter. If an employee is hired at a salary of \$220.80 for a 40-hour week his regular rate is \$5.52 an hour.

(b) *Salary for periods other than workweek.* Where the salary covers a period longer than a workweek, such as a month, it must be reduced to its workweek equivalent. A monthly salary is subject to translation to its equivalent weekly wage by multiplying by 12 (the number of months) and dividing by 52 (the number of weeks). A semimonthly salary is translated into its equivalent weekly wage by multiplying by 24 and dividing by 52. Once the weekly wage is arrived at, the regular hourly rate of pay will be calculated as indicated above. The regular rate of an employee who is paid a regular monthly salary of \$1,040, or a regular semimonthly salary of \$520 for 40 hours a week, is thus found to be \$6 per hour. Under regulations of the Administrator, pursuant to the authority given to him in section 7(g)(3) of the Act, the parties may provide that the regular rates shall be determined by dividing the monthly salary by the number of working days in the month and then by the number of hours of the normal or regular workday. Of course, the resultant rate in such a case must not be less than the statutory minimum wage.

[46 FR 7310, Jan. 23, 1981]

### § 778.114 Fixed salary for fluctuating hours.

(a) An employee employed on a salary basis may have hours of work which fluctuate from week to week and the salary may be paid him pursuant to an understanding with his employer that he will receive such fixed amount as straight time pay for whatever hours he is called upon to work in a workweek, whether few or many. Where there is a clear mutual understanding of the parties that the fixed salary is compensation (apart from overtime premiums) for the hours worked each workweek, whatever their number, rather than for working 40 hours or some other fixed weekly work