

§ 2.7 Rulemaking.

It is the policy of the Secretary of Labor, that in applying the rulemaking provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 553), the exemption therein for matters relating to public property, loans, grants, benefits or contracts shall not be relied upon as a reason for not complying with the notice and public participation requirements thereof except for all information-gathering procedures adopted by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

[46 FR 35, Jan. 2, 1981]

§ 2.8 Final agency decisions.

Final agency decision issued under the statutory authority of the U.S. Department of Labor may be issued by the Secretary of Labor, or by his or her designee under a written delegation of authority. The Administrative Review Board, an organizational entity within the Office of the Secretary, has been delegated authority to issue final agency decisions under the statutes, executive orders, and regulations as provided in Secretary's Order 2-96, published on May 3, 1996.

[61 FR 19984, May 3, 1996]

Subpart B—Audiovisual Coverage of Administrative Hearings

SOURCE: 38 FR 5631, Mar. 2, 1973, unless otherwise noted.

§ 2.10 Scope and purpose.

This subpart defines the scope of audiovisual coverage of departmental administrative hearings. It describes the types of proceedings where such coverage is encouraged, defines areas where such coverage is prohibited (as in certain enforcement proceedings or where witnesses object) and areas where a decision concerning coverage is made after weighing the values involved in permitting coverage against the reasons for not permitting it.

§ 2.11 General principles.

The following general principles will be observed in granting or denying requests for permission to cover hearings audiovisually:

(a) Notice and comment and on-the-record rule making proceedings may involve administrative hearings. If such administrative hearings are held, we encourage their audiovisual coverage.

(b) Audiovisual coverage shall be excluded in adjudicatory proceedings involving the rights or status of individuals (including those of small corporations likely to be indistinguishable in the public mind from one or a few individuals) in which an individual's past culpable conduct or other aspect of personal life is a primary subject of adjudication, and where the person in question objects to coverage.

(c) Certain proceedings involve balancing of conflicting values in order to determine whether audiovisual coverage should be allowed. Where audiovisual coverage is restricted, the reasons for the restriction shall be stated in the record.

§ 2.12 Audiovisual coverage permitted.

The following are the types of hearings where the Department encourages audiovisual coverage:

(a) All hearings involving notice and comment and on-the-record rule making proceedings. The Administrative Procedure Act provides for notice of proposed rule making with provision for participation by interested parties through submission of written data, views, or arguments, with or without opportunity for oral presentation (5 U.S.C. 553). (In many cases the Department follows the above procedure in matters exempted from these requirements of 5 U.S.C. 553.) On-the-record rule making proceedings under 5 U.S.C. 556 and 557 are also hearings where audiovisual coverage of hearings is encouraged. Examples of hearings encompassed by this paragraph are:

(1) Hearings to establish or amend safety or health standards under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970, 29 U.S.C. 651.

(2) Hearings to determine the adequacy of State laws under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

(b) Hearings to collect or review wage data upon which to base minimum wage rates determined under various laws, such as the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a) and related statutes and

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the Service Contract Act of 1965 (41 U.S.C. 353, as amended by Pub. L. 92-473 approved October 9, 1972).

(c) Hearings under section 4(c) of the Service Contract Act of 1965 (41 U.S.C. 353, subsection (c) added by Pub. L. 92-473 approved October 9, 1972) to determine if negotiated rates are substantially at variance with those which prevail in the locality for services of a character similar.

(d) Hearings before the Administrative Review Board (parts 1, 3, 5, and 7 of this chapter).

(e) Hearings held at the request of a Federal agency to resolve disputes under the Davis-Bacon and related Acts, involving prevailing wage rates or proper classification which involve significant sums of money, large groups of employees or novel or unusual situations.

(f) Hearings of special industry committees held pursuant to the Fair Labor Standards Act, as amended (29 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.*) for the purpose of recommending minimum wage rates to be paid in Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and American Samoa.

(g) Hearings pursuant to section 13(a) of the Welfare and Pension Plans Disclosure Act (29 U.S.C. 308d) to determine whether a bond in excess of \$500,000 may be prescribed.

(h) Hearings where the Department is requesting information needed for its administrative use in determining what our position should be (e.g., our hearings on the 4-day, 40-hour work-week).

[38 FR 5631, Mar. 2, 1973, as amended at 61 FR 19984, May 3, 1996]

§2.13 Audiovisual coverage prohibited.

The Department shall not permit audiovisual coverage of the following types of hearings if any party objects:

(a) Hearings to determine whether applications for individual variances should be issued under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970.

(b) Hearings (both formal and informal) involving alleged violations of various laws such as the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a, *et seq.*) and related Acts, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act (40 U.S.C. 327 *et seq.*), the Service Contract Act (41

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U.S.C. 351 *et seq.*), the Walsh Healey Act (41 U.S.C. 35 *et seq.*), under section 41 of the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (33 U.S.C. 941 *et seq.*), the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938, as amended (29 U.S.C. 201 *et seq.*), and any informal hearings or conferences under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 *et seq.*) which are not within the jurisdiction of the Occupational Safety and Health Commission.

(c) Adversary hearings under the Longshoremen's and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (33 U.S.C. 901 *et seq.*) and related Acts, which determine an employee's right to compensation.

(d) Hearings which determine an employee's right to compensation under the Federal Employees' Compensation Act (5 U.S.C. 8101 *et seq.*).

§2.14 Proceedings in which the Department balances conflicting values.

In proceedings not covered by §§2.12 and 2.13, the Department should determine whether the public's right to know outbalances the individual's right to privacy. When audiovisual coverage is restricted or excluded, the record shall state fully the reasons for such restriction or exclusion. For example, there would be included in this category hearings before the Board of Contract Appeals involving appeals from contracting officer decisions involving claims for extra costs for extra work, extra costs for delay in completion caused by the Government or for changes in the work, conformity hearings arising under State unemployment insurance laws, etc.

§2.15 Protection of witnesses.

A witness has the right, prior to or during his testimony, to exclude audiovisual coverage of his testimony in any hearing being covered audiovisually.

§2.16 Conduct of hearings.

The presiding officer at each hearing which is audiovisually covered is authorized to take any steps he deems necessary to preserve the dignity of the hearing or prevent its disruption by persons setting up or using equipment needed for its audiovisual coverage.