



EPA TO EXPAND LEAD RENOVATION, REPAIR, AND PAINTING PROGRAM RULES TO COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS

The EPA is reviewing the lead paint laws for residential renovation and remodeling work and considering whether and potentially how to apply those requirements to public and commercial building renovation and remodeling. The EPA must issue a proposed rule requiring lead-safe work practices for exterior renovations of public and commercial buildings, by December 2011. For interior renovations, the EPA must confer with the EPA Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) by September 30, 2011, regarding a methodology for evaluating the risk posed by renovations in public and commercial buildings.

DHS FINAL RULE AMENDS I-9 FORM REGULATIONS ON ELECTRONIC PROCESSING & RETENTION

The Department of Homeland Security's Immigration and Customs Enforcement's final rule amending its regulations that permit employers to complete, sign, scan, and store the Form I-9 electronically was published July 22 in the *Federal Register* (75 Fed. Reg. 42575)

Two key clarifications of the rule are:

- Employers must complete an I-9 form within three business days of the date the employee is hired;
- Employers may use paper, electronic systems, or a combination of paper and electronic systems.

PLAN SPONSORS OF MULTIEMPLOYER DEFINED BENEFIT PLANS CAN ELECT FUNDING RELIEF

The Internal Revenue Service issued a notice July 30 about Form 5500 reporting requirements for employers that wish to take advantage of pension funding relief enacted under the Preservation of Access to Care for Medicare Beneficiaries and Pension Relief Act of 2010 (Pub. L. No. 111-192).

Notice 2010-56 for sponsors of multiemployer defined benefit plans informed plan sponsors they still can elect pension funding relief for a particular plan year even if they have already filed a benefit plan Form 5500.

In Notice 2010-56, the IRS also said it would provide future guidance to multiemployer plan sponsors on:

- Notifying participants and beneficiaries about the consequences of the special pension funding relief rules; and
- How the special rules will affect future and existing certifications of multiemployer plan funding status as endangered, critical, or otherwise.

ONE IN FIVE ELIGIBLE FOR HIRE ACT EXEMPTIONS HIRED IN CONSTRUCTION

According to a Treasury Department report released July 12, nearly 20 percent of all newly hired workers whose employers are eligible for the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act's tax exemptions were hired into the construction industry.

The HIRE Act (Pub. L. No. 111-147) was signed into law March 18, 2010, and exempts wages paid to newly hired workers who had been unemployed for at least 60 days from the employer's share of the 6.2 percent contribution of Social Security payroll taxes for the remainder of 2010. In addition, if such a worker is hired and retained for at least 52 weeks, the employer may claim an additional tax credit of up to \$1,000 for each qualifying employee.

CONSTRUCTION SPENDING EDGES UP 0.1 PERCENT IN JUNE ON PUBLIC OUTLAYS

Construction spending edged up 0.1 percent in June as a solid gain in public construction made up for declines in private outlays, the Commerce Department reported Aug. 2.

Total construction put in place in June rose to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$836.0 billion from a downwardly revised rate of \$834.8 billion in May.

Total private construction spending fell 0.6 percent to a rate of \$527.6 billion in June from \$530.9 billion in May; Infrastructure projects funded by last year's \$787 billion stimulus package are increasing.

In the most recent quarterly report on the Recovery Act, the Obama administration last month said that public investment outlays, such as infrastructure and clean energy, now account for a larger share of the stimulus, having grown from \$7 billion through the end of the second quarter of last year to \$86 billion through the end of the second quarter this year; the report projected that more than half of the spending and tax credits still to come will take the form of public investment outlays.

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