



Labor Department Issues Stop Work Orders to Three Contractors at Old Saybrook Construction Site

WETHERSFIELD, May 22, 2014 – The Labor Department issued three Stop Work orders at a construction site at 230 Industrial Park Road in Old Saybrook when it was determined that the construction contractors did not have Connecticut workers’ compensation coverage or unemployment coverage. One of the contractors was also cited for incorrectly treating its employees as independent contractors.

According to State Labor Commissioner Sharon M. Palmer, Alvin Quality Masonry LLC of Bristol, CT, and Industrial Technical Services Inc. of Westfield MA, were issued Stop Work orders after inspectors with the agency’s Wage and Workplace Standards Division determined that the contractors – both working on the Big Y supermarket building project – did not have workers’ compensation or unemployment insurance coverage for their employees. G&F Group LLC of Baldwin, GA, which was doing carpentry work on the Kohl’s building being constructed at the same site, was issued a Stop Work order for failure to have workers’ compensation or unemployment insurance coverage, and for misclassifying its employees as independent contractors.

General contractors at the construction site are Schimenti Construction Company of Ridgefield, CT (Kohl’s project) and F William Brown, LLC (Big Y project) of Norwich, CT.

“This is just one more situation where employees are not being provided the proper workplace protections that are the right of every working person,” Palmer said. “In these cases, employers are taking unfair advantage of their employees and also cheating the state by not paying the proper taxes or providing unemployment insurance and workers’ compensation.

This is an unacceptable way to do business in Connecticut because our workers are not protected should they get hurt on the job or become unemployed. Ultimately, state taxpayers are burdened with the cost of protecting these employees, creating a financial loss for Connecticut’s residents and those employers that do play by the rules.”

When a Stop Work order is issued the company is able to resume work when it can provide proof that all deficiencies have been corrected. Under state law companies are fined for those days it has operated in violation. Under state statute, this is \$300 per worker per day of the violations.

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In the past five years, the agency has issued more than 1,200 Stop Work orders to companies that lack proper worker coverage, misclassify workers as independent contractors or fail to keep required payroll records.

“While we want to keep Connecticut’s economy strong and help employers stay in business, our first obligation is to ensure that workers have the proper protections should they get injured while on the job. Only by creating a level playing field can we help those employers that are doing the right thing to remain competitive,” Palmer added.

Noting that a main objective of the agency is to educate both employers and employees working in this state to ensure a fair and safe business environment, Palmer urged any company doing business in Connecticut to consult the agency website at www.ct.gov/dol for workplace guidelines, or contact wage staff at 860-263-6790.

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