



Connecticut Department of Labor Issues Stop Work Orders to 18 Companies

*Orders issued Sept. 26 to Oct. 20 – Work halted at construction sites in
Bristol, Danbury, Darien, East Hartford, Greenwich, Norwalk, and Wethersfield*

WETHERSFIELD, Nov. 7, 2011 – The Connecticut Department of Labor’s Division of Wage and Workplace Standards issued Stop Work orders to 18 companies working at construction project sites in Bristol, Danbury, Darien, East Hartford, Greenwich, Norwalk and Wethersfield during the period of September 26 to October 20, State Labor Commissioner Glenn Marshall announced today.

Stop Work orders are levied against companies that misclassify workers as independent contractors; often with the intent to avoid their obligations under federal and state employment laws, such as workers’ compensation, unemployment taxes and payroll reporting. Stop Work orders result in the halting of all activity at a cited company’s worksite, as well as a \$300 civil penalty for each day the company does not carry workers’ compensation coverage as required by law.

According to Commissioner Marshall, Division of Wage and Workplace Standards Investigators issued Stop Work orders to the following companies:

September 22 at the following project site: 11 Island Lane, Greenwich

- Artisan Tile & Stone LLC
- Custom Millwork Installers

October 3 at the following project site: 506 Westport Avenue, Norwalk

- Balderrama Builders LLC

October 3 at the following project site: 25 Heckler Avenue, Darien

- Darien Asphalt & Paving Inc.
- Ernwell

October 3 at the following project site: 506 Westport Ave, Norwalk

- Lopez Wood Floors LLC
- Souza Woods Floors LLC

October 3 at the following project site: 154 Boston Post Road, Darien

- ENH Painting

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October 13 at the following project site: 61 Bellevue Avenue, Bristol

- McAlpine Construction Co. Inc.
- Speedwell Design

October 18 at the following project site: 225 Silas Deane Highway, Wethersfield

- Conventional Builders
- Jacek Construction LLC

October 19 at the following project site: 37 Executive Drive, Danbury

- Oliver Drywall
- AM Drywall Acoustical Ceiling Inc.
- TEAM Electric

October 20 at the following project site: 446 East Main Street, East Hartford

- Rogers Renovations LLC

October 20 at the following project site: 991-111 Silas Deane Highway

- Wood Spirit Corp
- Zhaohi Wu

“Businesses that fail to recognize their workers as employees of their company are not providing certain protections, such as Workers’ Compensation, which ensures that those employees are safe in the event they are injured on the job,” Marshall noted. “It is an employer’s responsibility, under the law, to ensure that their employees have adequate coverage while at work. When an employer does not pay its fair share, and a worker gets hurt on the job or is laid off, the state’s taxpayers ultimately foot the bill.”

In the past ten months the agency has inspected 109 construction projects and reviewed the records of 442 contractors. Approximately 160 Stop Work orders have been issued, with 50 identified as out-of-state contractors. Companies issued a Stop Work order have 10 days to appeal the decision, and once a cited employer provides proof of appropriate coverage, work at that site is allowed to resume.

A total of \$130,000 has been collected in civil penalties this year for the misclassification of workers and referrals have been made to the Department of Revenue Services and the Labor Department’s Tax Division audit unit for further investigation. The first Stop Work order was issued by the Connecticut Department of Labor in October 2007. Since that time, 615 have been issued.

The agency has developed an online site to help educate the public and members of the business community about misclassification laws. Located under the agency’s website at www.ct.gov/dol, it also provides contact information for those wishing to report any suspicions of misclassification.