



MEDIA RELEASE

CT Department of Labor *Communications Office*
Glenn Marshall, Commissioner

Connecticut Department of Labor Issues Stop Work Orders to 23 Companies

Work halted at construction sites located in eight different Connecticut towns

WETHERSFIELD, December 21, 2011 – The Connecticut Department of Labor’s Division of Wage and Workplace Standards issued Stop Work orders to 23 companies working at construction project sites in Madison, Mansfield, Middletown, Norwalk, Norwich, Old Greenwich, Stamford and Suffield between November 11 and December 9, State Labor Commissioner Glenn Marshall announced today.

Stop Work orders are levied against companies that misclassify workers as independent contractors with the intent of avoiding their obligations under federal and state employment laws covering such matters 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 per incident 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 at these construction sites to the following companies:

November 11 at the following project site: 1 Blachley Road, Stamford

- American Building LLC (CT)
- Cortes Construction (NC)
- G.J. Courey Erectors (NY)

November 16 at the following project site: 372 West Main Street, Norwich

- Sapphire Construction (MA)

November 22 at the following project site: Sheldon Road, Suffield

- American Building LLC (CT)

November 28 at the following project site: 94 Wharf Road, Madison

- Earth Environmental Consultants (CT)
- Homeguard Environmental Services (CT)
- Indianapolis Construction (IN)
- R and T Painting LLC (NJ)

(More)

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November 30 at the following project site: 13 Dog Lane, Mansfield

- Empire Construction (MA)

November 30 at the following project site: 45 Wyllys Avenue, Middletown

- Windsor Wood Works (CT)

December 2 at the following project site: 1800 East Putnam Avenue, Old Greenwich

- Cartagena Construction LLC (CT)
- Cash Liquidation (GA)
- Hammon Construction (FL)
- Marmara Stone (NY)
- Stevers Enterprises (NY)
- Sunrise Construction (FL)
- Tony's Wallpaper (FL)
- E&S (FL)

December 7 at the following project site: 333 Ludlow Street, Stamford

- Eco Specialties (NJ)

December 8 at the following project site: 501 Main Street, Norwalk

- D&B Partners LLC (CT)

December 8 at the following project site: 750 East Main Street, Stamford

- Tri State High Rise Services (NY)

December 8 at the following project site: 300 Broad Street, Stamford

- James Murphy LLC (CT)

In the past 10 months the agency has inspected 131 construction projects and reviewed the records of 556 contractors. Approximately 200 Stop Work orders have been issued during this time, with 71 identified as out-of-state contractors. A total of 654 Stop Work Orders have been issued since October 2007. Companies issued a Stop Work Order have 10 days to appeal the decision. Once a cited employer provides proof of appropriate coverage, work at that site is allowed to resume. As a result of these Stop Work orders, \$170,000 has been collected in civil penalties 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. 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.