

## ABSTRACT OF THE CONTRACT LABOUR ACT, 1970

The Act aims at the abolition of Contract Labour in respect of such categories as may be notified by the appropriate Government and at regulating the service conditions of Contract Labour where abolition is not possible.

### APPLICABILITY

#### This act applies

- To every establishment in which 20 or more workmen are employed or were employed on any day of the proceeding 12 months as contract labour [Sec 1(4) (a)]
- To every contractor who employs or who employed on any day of the preceding 12 months 20 or more workmen [Sec 1(4) (a)] **To whom does it not apply?**

It shall not apply to establishments in which work only of an intermittent or casual nature is performed [Sec 1(5) (a)].

If question arises whether work performed in an establishment is of an intermittent or casual nature, the appropriate Government shall decide that question after consultation with the Central Board or, as the case may be, a state Board, and its decision shall be final [Sec 1(5) (b)]

For this purpose of this subsection, work performed in an establishment shall not be deemed to be an intermittent nature:

- If it was performed for more than 120 days in the preceding 12 months; or
- If it is of a seasonal character and is performed for more than 60 days in year.

### Administration

The Act is administered by the Central or State Advisory Boards, as the case may be, whereon the Labour Commissioner will be a member [Sec 3 & 4] **Who is principal employer?**

The head of any office or department of Government or local authority or, in a factory, the owner or occupier of the factory or a person named as the Manager of the factory under the Factories Act 1948, is the principal employer under the Act [Sec 2(g)] **What are Wages?**

For the purpose of this Act, the expression 'wages' shall have the same meaning assigned to it under the Payment of Wages Act. Wages will, therefore, comprise Basic Pay (B. P.), Dearness Allowance (D.A), City Compensatory Allowance (C.C.A), Overtime Wages (O.W) and Production Incentive,. The term also includes encashment amount of leave, terminal dues, such as, notice pay, retrenchment compensation layoff., if the contract between the worker and the immediate employer so provide [Sec 2(h)] **Who is a 'Workman'?**

Workman means any person employed in or in connection with a work of skilled, semi-skilled or unskilled, manual, supervisory, technical or clerical nature for hire or reward, whether terms of employment are express or implied. The expression 'workman' does not include:

- (a) any person employed mainly in a managerial or administrative capacity; or
- (b) a person being employed in a supervisory capacity but draws wages exceeding Rs. 500/- per mensem or exercises either by the nature of the duties attached to his office or by reason of the powers vested in him, functions mainly of a managerial nature; or
- (c) a person who is out-worker, that is to say, a person to whom any articles or materials are given out by or on behalf of the principal employer to be made up, cleaned, washed, altered, ornamented, finished, repaired, adapted or otherwise processed for sale for the purpose of the trade or business of the principal employer and process is to be carried out either in the home of the out-worker or in some other premises, not being premises under the control and management of the principal employer [Sec 2(i)]

### Contractor to make payment of wages

The contractor shall be responsible for payment of wages to each contract worker employed by him, such amounts as wages and at such intervals as are agreed upon in the contract. The contractor should ensure that the wages are disbursed in the presence of authorized representative of the principal employer.

### The obligations of the principal employer

In the case Contractor fails to make payment of wages within the prescribed period or makes short payment, then the principal employer shall be liable to make payment of wages in full or the unpaid balance due, as the case may be, to the contract labour, employed by the Contractor and recover the amount so paid from the Contractor either by deduction from any amount payable to the contractor under any contract or as a debt payable by the Contractor [Sec 21]

### Employer's Obligation

Every principal employer of an establishment shall, under this Act, make an application to the Registering Officer in Form I for registration of his establishment. If the establishment fails to so register, it is prohibited to employ contract labour after the expiry of the period permitted for making the application [Sec 7(1) & (2)]

### Licensing of Contractors

No employer shall undertake any work through Contract Labour except under the license issued by the Licensing Officer [Sec 11]. Such license will contain conditions as to hours of work, fixation of wages and other essential amenities for the contract employees. Such license shall be valid for a specific period where after the employer may apply for renewal [Sec 12(2)]. Any appeal against an order of the licensing officer may be made by the employer within 30 days before the Appellate Officer nominated by the Government [Sec 15].

### Welfare, Safety and Health measures

Every principal employer governed by this Act is responsible for maintaining such standards of welfare, safety and health of contract labours as prescribed in detail in the Act [Sec 16 to 21]

### Registers and Records

Registers of contractors: Every principal employer shall maintain in respect of each registered establishment a register of contractors in Form XII [Rule 74] Employment Card:

- I) Every contractor shall issue an employment card in Form XIV to each worker within 03 days of employment of the workers,
- II) The card shall be maintained up to date and any change in the particulars shall be entered therein [Rule 76]

Service Certificate: On termination of employment for any reason whatsoever the contractor shall issue to the workman whose service have been terminated a Service Certificate in Form XV [Rule 77]

Muster Roll, Wages Register, Deduction Register and Overtime Register: Every contractor shall in respect of each work on which he engages contract labour [Rule 78]

- maintain a Muster Roll and Registers of Wages in Forms XVI & XVII respectively provided that a combined Register of Wage-cum-Muster Roll in Form XVIII shall be maintained by the contractor where the wage period is a fortnight or less;
- maintain a Register of Deductions for damage or loss, Register of Fines and Registers of Advances in Form XX, Form XXI and Form XXII respectively.
- Maintain a Register of Overtime in Form XXIII recording therein the numbers of hours of, and wages paid for, overtime work if any.
- Every contractor shall, where the wage period is one week or more, issue wage slips in Form XIX, to the workmen at least a day prior to the disbursement of wages.
- Every contractor shall obtain the signature or thumb impression of the worker concerned against the entries relating to him on the Register of Wages or Muster Roll-cum-Wages Register, as the case may be, and the entries shall be authenticated by the initials of the contractor or his authorized representative and shall also be duly certified by the authorized representative of the principal employer in the following manner:

The authorized representative of the principal employer shall record under his signature a certificate at the end of the entries in the Register of Wages or the (Register of Wages-cum-Muster Roll), as the case may be, in the following form: "Certified that the amount shown in Column No.....has been paid to the workman concerned in my presence on.....(date) at.....(place)

### Display of the Act

Every contractor shall display an abstract of the Act and rules in English and Hindi and in the language spoken by the majority of workers in such form as may be approved by the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central). The contractor shall also display notices showing rates of wages, hours of work, wage period, dates of payment of wages in conspicuous places at the establishment and the work site [Rule 80-81 (1) & (2)].

### Returns

[Every principal employer shall, within fifteen days of the commencement or completion of each contract work under each contractor, submit a return to the Inspector, appointed under Section 28 of the Act, intimating the actual dates of the commencement or, as the case may be, completion of such contract work, ["in Form VII annexed to the Rationalisation of Forms and Reports under Certain Labour Laws Rules, 2017"]. [Rule 81(3)].

[Every principal employer and contractor shall file a Unified Annual Return online in Form XIV annexed to the Rationalisation of Forms and Reports under Certain Labour Laws Rules, 2017, on the Shram Suvidha Portal of the Central Government in the Ministry of Labour and Employment on or before the 1st day of February following the end of the year to which it relates.]

[Rule 82(1)]

[Omitted][82 (2)]

**Penalties** Contravention of provisions of the Act will attract punishment by way of imprisonment or fine or both.