

New Requirement for All Contracts Subject to Prevailing Wage Laws

Effective: January 1, 2020
Per: [ESSB 5035](#)

Summary: Beginning January 1, 2020, weekly certified-payroll reports are required to be filed online with L&I at least once a month for all public-works projects. Legislature passed ESSB 5035, adding this requirement to the prevailing-wage laws within chapter [39.12 RCW](#) – check out the new [RCW 39.12.120](#) to learn more.

This change effects all public-works projects on January 1 to include those that are progress and all new ones moving forward. Each contractor must file their certified payroll using L&I's online system at least once a month. (If the online system is not used, a contractor shall file a copy of its certified payroll records directly with the department in a format approved by the department.)

Please note: contractors can be penalized for failing to file.

L&I's Online System:

L&I's online certified-payroll system is available today and has includes the following functions and services:

- Validates wage rates
- Pre-populates affidavit
- Saves workers and their information
- Validates apprentices
- Auto-calculates apprentice utilization
- Auto-hides Social Security Numbers
- Instantly viewable by the prime, awarding agency, and L&I!

Training: Contractors can view the [step-by-step instructions](#) to learn how to access and file certified payroll online. [Training videos](#) are also available to help you file online.

FAQs: Q: What if the contract requires certified payroll to be entered in another system (*Note: does not apply to Port of Olympia contracts*)?
A: You will have to enter certified payroll into both systems. Check with the awarding agency or prime contractor to ensure the other system is still required. At minimum, you will always have to enter it into L&I's online system.

Q: Does the system meet the Davis-Bacon Act requirements for federally funded projects?

A: L&I's system is expected have all of the required federal information as of February 2020.

Q: Can I upload data from my payroll system?

A: Yes, although it does have to be in a specific format, which may require some IT assistance. Check with your payroll software company to see how they can help.

For additional information or to submit questions, please contact Labor & Industries at: pw1@lni.wa.gov

This information was compiled from a post from Jim P. Christensen, *Industrial Statistician and Program Manager – Prevailing Wage* at the Department of Labor and Industries