

§ 1905.12 Limitations, variations, tolerances, or exemptions under section 16.

(a) *Application.* Any person, or class of persons, desiring a limitation, variation, tolerance, or exemption authorized by section 16 of the Act may file an application containing the information specified in paragraph (b) of this section, with the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, DC 20210.

(b) *Contents.* An application filed pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section shall include:

- (1) The name and address of the applicant;
- (2) The address of the place or places of employment involved;
- (3) A specification of the provision of the Act to or from which the applicant seeks a limitation, variation, tolerance, or exemption;
- (4) A representation showing that the limitation, variation, tolerance, or exemption sought is necessary and proper to avoid serious impairment of the national defense;
- (5) Any request for a hearing, as provided in this part; and
- (6) A description of how employees have been informed of the application and of their right to petition the Assistant Secretary for a hearing.

(c) *Interim order*—(1) *Application.* An application may also be made for an interim order to be effective until a decision is rendered on the application for the limitation, variation, tolerance, or exemption filed previously or concurrently. An application for an interim order may include statements of fact and arguments as to why the order should be granted. The Assistant Secretary may rule ex parte upon the application.

(2) *Notice of denial of application.* If an application filed pursuant to paragraph (c)(1) of this section is denied, the applicant shall be given prompt notice of the denial, which shall include, or be accompanied, by a brief statement of the grounds therefor.

(3) *Notice of the grant of an interim order.* If an interim order is granted, a copy of the order shall be served upon the applicant for the order and other parties, and the terms of the order

shall be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER. It shall be a condition of the order that the affected employer shall give notice thereof to affected employees by the same means to be used to inform them of an application for a variance.

§ 1905.13 Modification, revocation, and renewal of rules or orders.

(a) *Modification or revocation.* (1) An affected employer or an affected employee may apply in writing to the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health for a modification or revocation of a rule or order issued under section 6(b) (6) (A), 6(d), or 16 of the Act. The application shall contain:

- (i) The name and address of the applicant;
- (ii) A description of the relief which is sought;
- (iii) A statement setting forth with particularity the grounds for relief;
- (iv) If the applicant is an employer, a certification that the applicant has informed his affected employees of the application by:
 - (a) Giving a copy thereof to their authorized representative;
 - (b) Posting at the place or places where notices to employees are normally posted, a statement giving a summary of the application and specifying where a copy of the full application may be examined (or, in lieu of the summary, posting the application itself); and
 - (c) Other appropriate means.
- (v) If the applicant is an affected employee, a certification that a copy of the application has been furnished to the employer; and
- (vi) Any request for a hearing, as provided in this part.

(2) The Assistant Secretary may on his own motion proceed to modify or revoke a rule or order issued under section 6(b) (6) (A), 6(d), or 16 of the Act. In such event, the Assistant Secretary shall cause to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of his intention, affording interested persons an opportunity to submit written data, views, or arguments regarding the proposal and informing the affected employer and employees of their right to request a hearing, and shall take such

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other action as may be appropriate to give actual notice to affected employees. Any request for a hearing shall include a short and plain statement of:

(i) How the proposed modification or revocation would affect the requesting party; and

(ii) What the requesting party would seek to show on the subjects or issues involved.

(b) *Renewal.* Any final rule or order issued under section 6(b) (6) (A) or 16 of the Act may be renewed or extended as permitted by the applicable section and in the manner prescribed for its issuance.

(c) *Multi-state variances.* Where a Federal variance has been granted with multi-state applicability, including applicability in a State operating under a State plan approved under section 18 of the Act, from a standard, or portion thereof, identical to a State standard, or portion thereof, without filing the information required in §1905.10(b)(11) or §1905.11(b)(8) of this chapter, such variance shall likewise be deemed an authoritative interpretation of the employer(s)' compliance obligations with regard to the State standard, or portion thereof, upon filing the information required under §1905.10(b)(11) or §1905.11(b)(8) of this chapter, provided no objections of substance are found to be interposed by the State authority under §1905.14 of this chapter.

[36 FR 12290, June 30, 1971, as amended at 40 FR 25449, June 16, 1975]

§ 1905.14 Action on applications.

(a) *Defective applications.* (1) If an application filed pursuant to §1905.10(a), §1905.11(a), §1905.12(a), or §1905.13 does not conform to the applicable section, the Assistant Secretary may deny the application.

(2) Prompt notice of the denial of an application shall be given to the applicant.

(3) A notice of denial shall include, or be accompanied by, a brief statement of the grounds for the denial.

(4) A denial of an application pursuant to this paragraph shall be without prejudice to the filing of another application.

(b) *Adequate applications.* (1) If an application has not been denied pursuant to paragraph (a) of this section, the As-

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sistant Secretary shall cause to be published in the FEDERAL REGISTER a notice of the filing of the application.

(2) A notice of the filing of an application shall include:

(i) The terms, or an accurate summary, of the application;

(ii) A reference to the section of the Act under which the application has been filed;

(iii) An invitation to interested persons to submit within a stated period of time written data, views, or arguments regarding the application; and

(iv) Information to affected employers, employees, and appropriate State authority having jurisdiction over employment or places of employment covered in the application of any right to request a hearing on the application.

(3) Where the requested variance, or any proposed modification or extension thereof, involves a Federal standard, or any portion thereof, identical to a State standard, or any portion thereof, as provided in §§1905.10(b)(11) and 1905.11(b)(8) of this chapter, the Assistant Secretary will promptly furnish a copy of the application to the appropriate State authority and provide an opportunity for comment, including the opportunity to participate as a party, on the application by such authority, which shall be taken into consideration in determining the merits of the proposed action.

(4) A copy of each final decision of the Assistant Secretary with respect to an application filed under §1905.10, §1905.11, or §1905.13 shall be furnished, within 10 days of issuance, the State authorities having jurisdiction over the employment or place of employment covered in the application.

[36 FR 12290, June 30, 1971, as amended at 40 FR 25449, June 16, 1975]

§ 1905.15 Requests for hearings on applications.

(a) *Request for hearing.* Within the time allowed by a notice of the filing of an application, any affected employer, employee, or appropriate State agency having jurisdiction over employment or places of employment covered in an application may file with the Assistant Secretary, in quadruplicate, a request for a hearing on the application.