

# Minnesota student-learners in manufacturing

## HIRING 16- AND 17-YEAR-OLD STUDENT-LEARNERS IN MANUFACTURING

Minnesota's child labor laws prohibit the use of certain potentially hazardous equipment by employees younger than the age of 18. A 16- or 17-year-old may work in manufacturing if they are a student-learner in a school-work training program.

## WHAT IS A STUDENT-LEARNER?

A "student-learner" is 16 or 17 years old, a student of an accredited school and a part-time employee. The student-learner obtains both academic credit and employment training under a bona fide written school-work training program agreement between the school and the employer.

## WHEN CAN A STUDENT-LEARNER WORK IN MANUFACTURING?

A student-learner is permitted to do some work that is otherwise prohibited for minors if the student-learner is working within a bona fide school-work training program that is sponsored by an accredited school.

The program must be approved by one of the following:

- Minnesota Department of Education
- Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development
- Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
- Board of Trustees of the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities
- Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota

The employer, the school and the minor's parent or guardian must enter into a school-work training agreement. The agreement must be kept on file by both the school and the employer and must include the following.

1. The name of the student-learner.
2. Signatures of the parent or guardian, the employer and the school coordinator/principal.
3. The following attestations:
  - the work of the student-learner in the occupation(s) declared hazardous under state law is incidental to the student-learner's training and is intermittent (20 percent or less of the total work hours a day and no more than one hour a day;
  - the student-learner's work occurs with direct and close supervision of a qualified and experienced person;
  - safety instruction is provided by the school and reinforced by the employer at the worksite; and
  - a schedule of organized and progressive work processes to be performed on the job.



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## EQUIPMENT ALLOWED FOR 16- OR 17-YEAR-OLD STUDENT LEARNERS FOR UP TO 20 PERCENT OF A WORK SHIFT AND NO MORE THAN ONE HOUR A DAY

- Acetylene torch
- Cleat bender (power-driven)
- CNC router and milling function machines
- Deburring machine
- Flanging machines
- Hydraulic press
- Iron worker
- Laser cutting machine
- Lathe (turning function machines)
- Pipe threader
- Planer
- Plasma (handheld or computerized)
- Press brake
- Punch press
- Router with table
- Saws (double rip saw, single rip saw, up-cut chop saw, table saw, band saw, sawzall, skill saw, reciprocating saw, portaband)
- Shaper
- Shears, including power shears, jump shears
- Sheet metal brake
- Tapering machine
- Tenoner, single end
- Tube bender
- Welders (robotic, MIG, TIG, spot, wire feed, wire)

## QUESTIONS ABOUT EQUIPMENT?

If you have questions about minors using types of equipment not listed, contact Sara Ellstra at [sara.ellstra@state.mn.us](mailto:sara.ellstra@state.mn.us) or (651) 478-8148. Include the following information:

- name of specific equipment;
- family or type of equipment (such as press brake);
- safety features;
- how it operates;
- function of the tool or equipment; and
- tasks performed on the machine, such as cleaning, loading or unloading, maintenance, button or manual operation.

## ABOUT DLI LABOR STANDARDS

Labor Standards ensures workers are paid correctly and workplace rights and responsibilities are enforced for all workers. Its goal is to educate employers and employees about their rights and responsibilities under Minnesota employment laws.

### MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY

Labor Standards • 443 Lafayette Road N. • St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 284-5075 • 1-800-342-5354 • (651) 284-5099 (Spanish) • [www.dli.mn.gov/LaborLaw.asp](http://www.dli.mn.gov/LaborLaw.asp)

This is a brief summary of Minnesota child labor laws and is intended as a guide. It is not to be considered a substitute for Minnesota statutes and rules.

## EQUIPMENT ALLOWED FOR MINORS AGE 16 AND OLDER (NO LIMIT ON AMOUNT OF HOURS USED)

- Assembly, hand
- Cleat bender, manual
- Drill, cordless
- Drill, radial
- Drill press
- Grinder (hand, bench, table)
- Hammer drill
- Impact guns, corded and cordless
- Packaging, hand
- Parts washing machine
- Sander; belt sander; profile or edge sander
- Vacuum

## PROHIBITED EQUIPMENT FOR ALL MINORS

- Forklift
- Jib hoist
- Lift, walk behind
- Overhead crane
- Skyjack