

Farm Secretarial Services

Newsletter Issue 4

September 2009

Agricultural Wages Order – October 2009

The revised order, which comes in to effect on 1st October 2009, includes revised rates of pay for all grades of farm worker. The new minimum rates of pay are as follows:

Minimum rates of pay for grades 1 – 6		Hourly Pay £/hour	Overtime Pay £/hour
Grade 1	compulsory school age	2.91	4.37
Grade 1	above compulsory school age	5.81	8.72
Grade 2	Standard worker	6.40	9.60
Grade 3	Lead worker	7.04	10.56
Grade 4	Craft grade	7.55	11.33
Grade 5	Supervisory grade	8.00	12.00
Grade 6	Farm management grade	8.64	12.96

The above rates show an increase of 2.2% on last year for all grades except grade 1 which has risen by 1.2%. It is important that you ensure all of your staff are being paid at least the minimum amounts in the above table from 1st October and that they are all employed under the correct grade. If you are unsure, please don't hesitate to contact us and we can go through it with you. Different rates apply for apprentices.

This is only a summary of the details under the order. If you are in any doubt, you should obtain a copy of the Agricultural Wages Order 2009 either by contacting the Agricultural Wages Helpline on 0845 0000 134. You can also download a copy of the order at <http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/working/agwages/index.htm>

HMRC Employer CD-Rom Updates

HM Revenue & Customs have identified some problems in the updated edition of the CD-ROM issued in June 2009. You can download an update file from their website to correct these problems at <http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/employers/cdrom/download-update.htm>. Once the download is complete, run the file named ecd2009_update_053_win which will update your system. The next time you run the employer CD-Rom you will be notified if the update has been successfully applied.

Phasing out of paper VAT returns

As reported previously, HMRC plan to phase out paper VAT returns from early next year. If you are not already registered for online VAT returns, it is strongly recommended that you do this now. Further details on how to register are available at <https://online.hmrc.gov.uk/registration>. Alternatively, we can set this up for you – contact Sam Kelly to discuss this.

If you need any assistance regarding any of these issues, please feel free to contact us.

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