

INTERNATIONAL LABOUR OFFICE GENEVA

REPORT FORM
FOR THE
**PROTECTION OF WAGES CONVENTION,
1949 (No. 95)**

The present report form is for the use of countries which have ratified the Convention. It has been approved by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, in accordance with article 22 of the ILO Constitution, which reads as follows: "Each of the Members agrees to make an annual report to the International Labour Office on the measures which it has taken to give effect to the provisions of the Conventions to which it is a party. These reports shall be made in such form and shall contain such particulars as the Governing Body may request."

The Government may deem it useful to consult the appended text of the Protection of Wages Recommendation, 1949 (No. 85), the provisions of which supplement the present Convention and can contribute to a better understanding of its requirements and facilitate its application.

PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR DRAWING UP REPORTS

First reports

If this is your Government's first report following the entry into force of the Convention in your country, full information should be given on each of the provisions of the Convention and on each of the questions set out in the report form.

Subsequent reports

In subsequent reports, information need normally be given only:

- (a) on any new legislative or other measures affecting the application of the Convention;

- (b) in reply to the questions in the report form on the practical application of the Convention (for example, statistics, results of inspections, judicial or administrative decisions) and on the communication of copies of the report to the representative organizations of employers and workers and on any observations received from these organizations;

- (c) **in reply to comments by the supervisory bodies:** the report must contain replies to any comments regarding the application of the Convention in your country which have been made by the Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations or by the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards.
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Article 22 of the Constitution of the ILO

Report for the period _____ to _____

made by the Government of _____

on the

PROTECTION OF WAGES CONVENTION, 1949 (No. 95)

(ratification registered on _____)

- I. Please give a list of the legislation and administrative regulations, etc., which apply the provisions of the Convention. Where this has not already been done, please forward copies of the said legislation, etc., to the International Labour Office with this report.**

Please give any available information concerning the extent to which these laws and regulations have been enacted or modified to permit, or as a result of, ratification.

- II. Please indicate in detail for *each of the following Articles of the Convention* the provisions of the abovementioned legislation and administrative regulations, etc., or other measures, under which each Article is applied. In addition, please provide any indication specifically requested below under individual Articles.**

If in your country ratification of the Convention gives the force of national law to its terms, please indicate by virtue of what constitutional provisions the ratification has had this effect. Please also specify what action has been taken to make effective those provisions of the Convention which require a national authority to take certain specific steps for its implementation, such as measures to define the exact scope of the Convention and the extent to which advantage may be taken of permissive exceptions provided for in it, measures to draw the attention of the parties concerned to its provisions, and arrangements for adequate inspection and penalties.

If the Committee of Experts or the Conference Committee on the Application of Standards has requested additional information or has made an observation on the measures adopted to apply the Convention, please supply the information asked for or indicate the action taken by your Government to settle the points in question.

Article 1

In this Convention, the term “wages” means remuneration or earnings, however designated or calculated, capable of being expressed in terms of money and fixed by mutual agreement or by national laws or regulations, which are payable in virtue of a written or unwritten contract of employment by an employer to an employed person for work done or to be done or for services rendered or to be rendered.

Article 2

1. This Convention applies to all persons to whom wages are paid or payable.

2. The competent authority may, after consultation with the organisations of employers and employed persons directly concerned, if such exist, exclude from the application of all or any of the provisions of the Convention categories of persons whose circumstances and conditions of employment are such that the application to them of all or any of the said provisions would be inappropriate and who are not employed in manual labour or are employed in domestic service or work similar thereto.

3. Each Member shall indicate in its first annual report upon the application of this Convention submitted under article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation any categories of persons which it proposes to exclude from the application of all or any of the provisions of the Convention in accordance with the provisions of the preceding paragraph; no Member shall, after the date of its first annual report, make exclusions except in respect of categories of persons so indicated.

4. Each Member having indicated in its first annual report categories of persons which it proposes to exclude from the application of all or any of the provisions of the Convention shall indicate in subsequent annual reports any categories of persons in respect of which it renounces the right to have recourse to the provisions of paragraph 2 of this Article and any progress which may have been made with a view to the application of the Convention to such categories of persons.

If this is the first annual report of your Government on the application of the Convention, and if advantage has been taken of the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 2, please indicate (a) the categories of persons excluded or proposed to be excluded, and (b) the provisions of the Convention in respect of which exclusion has been made or is contemplated.

If this is a report subsequent to the first annual report, please indicate any categories of persons in respect of which the right to have recourse to the provisions of paragraph 2 of Article 2 has been renounced and the progress which may have been made with regard to the application of the Convention to such categories of persons.

Article 3

1. Wages payable in money shall be paid only in legal tender, and payment in the form of promissory notes, vouchers or coupons, or in any other form alleged to represent legal tender, shall be prohibited.

2. The competent authority may permit or prescribe the payment of wages by bank cheque or postal cheque or money order in cases in which payment in this manner is customary or is necessary because of special circumstances, or where a collective agreement or arbitration award so provides, or, where not so provided, with the consent of the worker concerned.

Article 4

1. National laws or regulations, collective agreements or arbitration awards may authorise the partial payment of wages in the form of allowances in kind in industries or occupations in which payment in the form of such allowances is customary or desirable because of the nature of the industry or occupation concerned; the payment of wages in the form of liquor of high alcoholic content or of noxious drugs shall not be permitted in any circumstances.

2. In cases in which partial payment of wages in the form of allowances in kind is authorised, appropriate measures shall be taken to ensure that:

- (a) such allowances are appropriate for the personal use and benefit of the worker and his family; and
- (b) the value attributed to such allowances is fair and reasonable.

If advantage has been taken of the provisions of paragraph 1 of Article 4 please indicate what measures have been taken to ensure that the conditions laid down in paragraph 2 (a) and (b) are complied with and that payment is not made in the form of liquor of high alcoholic content or of noxious drugs.

Article 5

Wages shall be paid directly to the worker concerned except as may be otherwise provided by national laws or regulations, collective agreement or arbitration award or where the worker concerned has agreed to the contrary.

Article 6

Employers shall be prohibited from limiting in any manner the freedom of the worker to dispose of his wages.

Article 7

1. Where works stores for the sale of commodities to the workers are established or services are operated in connection with an undertaking, the workers concerned shall be free from any coercion to make use of such stores or services.

2. Where access to other stores or services is not possible, the competent authority shall take appropriate measures with the object of ensuring that goods are sold and services provided at fair and reasonable prices, or that stores established and services operated by the employer are not operated for the purpose of securing a profit but for the benefit of the workers concerned.

Please give particulars of the measures taken to ensure, in application of paragraph 2 of Article 7, that goods are sold and services provided at fair and reasonable prices, or that the stores and services are not operated for profit.

Article 8

1. Deductions from wages shall be permitted only under conditions and to the extent prescribed by national laws or regulations or fixed by collective agreement or arbitration award.

2. Workers shall be informed, in the manner deemed most appropriate by the competent authority, of the conditions under which and the extent to which such deductions may be made.

Please indicate the conditions under which and the extent to which deductions from wages may be permitted. Please also give particulars of the steps taken to inform the workers of any measures taken in this connection.

Article 9

Any deduction from wages with a view to ensuring a direct or indirect payment for the purpose of obtaining or retaining employment, made by a worker to an employer or his representative or to any intermediary (such as a labour contractor or recruiter), shall be prohibited.

Article 10

1. Wages may be attached or assigned only in a manner and within limits prescribed by national laws or regulations.

2. Wages shall be protected against attachment or assignment to the extent deemed necessary for the maintenance of the worker and his family.

Please give information regarding the manner and limits that may have been prescribed, by national laws and regulations, for the attachment or assignment of wages.

Article 11

1. In the event of the bankruptcy or judicial liquidation of an undertaking, the workers employed therein shall be treated as privileged creditors either as regards wages due to them for service rendered during such a period prior to the bankruptcy or judicial liquidation as may be prescribed by national laws or regulations, or as regards wages up to a prescribed amount as may be determined by national laws or regulations.

2. Wages constituting a privileged debt shall be paid in full before ordinary creditors may establish any claim to a share of the assets.

3. The relative priority of wages constituting a privileged debt and other privileged debts shall be determined by national laws or regulations.

Please state (a) the length of the period of service or the amount of wages prescribed in conformity with the provisions of paragraph 1, and (b) the relative priority of wages constituting a privileged debt and other privileged debts.

Article 12

1. Wages shall be paid regularly. Except where other appropriate arrangements exist which ensure the payment of wages at regular intervals, the intervals for the payment of wages shall be prescribed by national laws or regulations or fixed by collective agreement or arbitration award.

2. Upon the termination of a contract of employment, a final settlement of all wages due shall be effected in accordance with national laws or regulations, collective agreement or arbitration award or, in the absence of any applicable law, regulation, agreement or award, within a reasonable period of time having regard to the terms of the contract.

Please indicate the intervals prescribed for the payment of wages by national laws, regulations, collective agreements or arbitration awards, or, where appropriate, any other arrangements which may have been made to ensure the payment of wages at regular intervals.

Please indicate what measures have been taken to ensure a final settlement of wages in the manner stipulated in paragraph 2.

Article 13

1. The payment of wages where made in cash shall be made on working days only and at or near the workplace, except as may be otherwise provided by national laws or regulations, collective agreement or arbitration award, or where other arrangements known to the workers concerned are considered more appropriate.

2. Payment of wages in taverns or other similar establishments and, where necessary to prevent abuse, in shops or stores for the retail sale of merchandise and in places of amusement shall be prohibited except in the case of persons employed therein.

Article 14

Where necessary, effective measures shall be taken to ensure that workers are informed, in an appropriate and easily understandable manner:

- (a) before they enter employment and when any changes take place, of the conditions in respect of wages under which they are employed; and
- (b) at the time of each payment of wages, of the particulars of their wages for the pay period concerned, in so far as such particulars may be subject to change.

Please state what measures have been taken to ensure that the workers concerned are informed of the particulars mentioned in subparagraphs (a) and (b) of Article 14.

Article 15

The laws or regulations giving effect to the provisions of this Convention shall:

- (a) be made available for the information of persons concerned;
- (b) define the persons responsible for compliance therewith;
- (c) prescribe adequate penalties or other appropriate remedies for any violation thereof;
- (d) provide for the maintenance, in all appropriate cases, of adequate records in an approved form and manner.

Please give particulars of the measures taken to make available for the information of the persons concerned the laws and regulations giving effect to the provisions of the Convention.

Article 17

1. In the case of a Member the territory of which includes large areas where, by reason of the sparseness of the population or the stage of development of the area, the competent authority considers it impracticable to enforce the provisions of this Convention, the authority may, after consultation with the organisations of employers and workers concerned, where such exist, exempt such areas from the application of this Convention either generally or with such exceptions in respect of particular undertakings or occupations as it thinks fit.

2. Each Member shall indicate in its first annual report upon the application of this Convention submitted under article 22 of the Constitution of the International Labour Organisation any areas in respect of which it proposes to have recourse to the provisions of the present Article and shall give the reasons for which it proposes to have recourse thereto; no Member shall, after the date of its first annual report, have recourse to the provisions of the present Article except in respect of areas so indicated.

3. Each Member having recourse to the provisions of this Article shall, at intervals not exceeding three years, reconsider in consultation with the organisations of employers and workers concerned, where such exist, the practicability of extending the application of the Convention to areas exempted in virtue of paragraph 1.

4. Each Member having recourse to the provisions of this Article shall indicate in subsequent annual reports any areas in respect of which it renounces the right to have recourse to the provisions of this Article and any progress which may have been made with a view to the progressive application of the Convention in such areas.

If this is the first annual report of your Government on the application of the Convention, please indicate any areas which, by virtue of the provisions of paragraph 1 of this Article, are to be exempted, in whole or in part, from the application of the Convention. Please also indicate the reasons for such exemptions.

If this is a report subsequent to the first annual report, please indicate any areas in respect of which the right to have recourse to the provisions of this Article may have been renounced and the progress which may have been made with a view to the progressive application of the Convention in such areas.

Please also indicate, where appropriate, what steps have been taken to reconsider the practicability of extending the application of the Convention in accordance with paragraph 3.

III. Please state to what authority or authorities the application of the abovementioned legislation and administrative regulations, etc., is entrusted, and by what methods application is supervised and enforced. In particular, please supply information on the organization and working of inspection.

IV. Please state whether courts of law or other tribunals have given decisions involving questions of principle relating to the application of the Convention. If so, please supply the text of these decisions.

V. Please give a general appreciation of the manner in which the Convention is applied in your country including, for instance, extracts from official reports and information on any practical difficulties in the application of the Convention.

VI. Please indicate the representative organizations of employers and workers to which copies of the present report have been communicated in accordance with article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitution of the International Labour Organization.¹ If copies of the report have not been communicated to representative organizations of employers and/or workers, or if they have been communicated to bodies other than such organizations, please supply information on any particular circumstances existing in your country which explain the procedure followed.

Please indicate whether you have received from the organizations of employers or workers concerned any observations, either of a general kind or in connection with the present or the previous report, regarding the practical application of the provisions of the Convention or the application of the legislation or other measures implementing the Convention. If so, please communicate the observations received, together with any comments that you consider useful.

¹ Article 23, paragraph 2, of the Constitution reads as follows: "Each Member shall communicate to the representative organisations recognised for the purpose of article 3 copies of the information and reports communicated to the Director-General in pursuance of articles 19 and 22."

APPENDIX

PROTECTION OF WAGES RECOMMENDATION, 1949 (No. 85)

The General Conference of the International Labour Organisation,

Having been convened at Geneva by the Governing Body of the International Labour Office, and having met in its Thirty-second Session on 8 June 1949, and

Having decided upon the adoption of certain proposals concerning the protection of wages, which is the seventh item on the agenda of the session, and

Having decided that these proposals shall take the form of a Recommendation supplementing the Protection of Wages Convention, 1949,

adopts this first day of July of the year one thousand nine hundred and forty-nine the following Recommendation, which may be cited as the Protection of Wages Recommendation, 1949:

The Conference recommends that each Member should apply the following provisions as rapidly as national conditions allow and report to the International Labour Office as requested by the Governing Body concerning the measures taken to give effect thereto.

I. DEDUCTIONS FROM WAGES

1. All necessary measures should be taken to limit deductions from wages to the extent deemed to be necessary to safeguard the maintenance of the worker and his family.

2. (1) Deductions from wages for the reimbursement of loss of or damage to the products, goods or installations of the employer should be authorised only when loss or damage has been caused for which the worker concerned can be clearly shown to be responsible.

(2) The amount of such deductions should be fair and should not exceed the actual amount of the loss or damage.

(3) Before a decision to make such a deduction is taken, the worker concerned should be given a reasonable opportunity to show cause why the deduction should not be made.

3. Appropriate measures should be taken to limit deductions from wages in respect of tools, materials or equipment supplied by the employer to cases in which such deductions:

- (a) are a recognised custom of the trade or occupation concerned; or
- (b) are provided for by collective agreement or arbitration award; or
- (c) are otherwise authorised by a procedure recognised by national laws or regulations.

II. PERIODICITY OF WAGE PAYMENTS

4. The maximum intervals for the payment of wages should ensure that wages are paid:

- (a) not less often than twice a month at intervals not exceeding sixteen days in the case of workers whose wages are calculated by the hour, day or week; and

(b) not less often than once a month in the case of employed persons whose remuneration is fixed on a monthly or annual basis.

5. (1) In the case of workers whose wages are calculated on a piece-work or output basis, the maximum intervals for the payment of wages should, so far as possible, be so fixed as to ensure that wages are paid not less often than twice a month at intervals not exceeding sixteen days.

(2) In the case of workers employed to perform a task the completion of which requires more than a fortnight, and in respect of whom intervals for the payment of wages are not otherwise fixed by collective agreement or arbitration award, appropriate measures should be taken to ensure:

- (a) that payments are made on account, not less often than twice a month at intervals not exceeding sixteen days, in proportion to the amount of work completed; and
- (b) that final settlement is made within a fortnight of the completion of the task.

III. NOTIFICATION TO WORKERS OF WAGE CONDITIONS

6. The details of the wages conditions which should be brought to the knowledge of the workers should include, wherever appropriate, particulars concerning:

- (a) the rates of wages payable;
- (b) the method of calculation;
- (c) the periodicity of wage payments;
- (d) the place of payment; and
- (e) the conditions under which deductions may be made.

IV. WAGES STATEMENTS AND PAYROLL RECORDS

7. In all appropriate cases, workers should be informed, with each payment of wages, of the following particulars relating to the pay period concerned, in so far as such particulars may be subject to change:

- (a) the gross amount of wages earned;
- (b) any deduction which may have been made, including the reasons therefor and the amount thereof; and
- (c) the net amount of wages due.

8. Employers should be required in appropriate cases to maintain records showing, in respect of each worker employed, the particulars specified in the preceding Paragraph.

V. ASSOCIATION OF WORKERS IN THE ADMINISTRATION OF WORKS STORES

9. Appropriate measures should be taken to encourage arrangements for the association of representatives of the workers concerned, and more particularly members of works welfare committees or similar bodies where such bodies exist, in the general administration of works stores or similar services established in connection with an undertaking for the sale of commodities or provision of services to the workers thereof.