Wage and Hour Division, Labor

§ 779.240 Employees "handling * * * or otherwise working on goods".

(a) "Goods" upon which the described activities are performed. Employees will be considered to be handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods within the meaning of section 3(s) if they engage in the described activities on "goods" which "have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person." They may be handling or working on such goods which the enterprise does not sell. The term "goods" is defined in section 3(i) of the Act. The definition is explained in §779.107 and discussed comprehensively in part 776 of this chapter. As defined in section 3(i) of the Act, the term includes any part or ingredient of "goods" and, in general, includes "articles or subjects of commerce of any character." Thus the term "goods," as used in section 3(s), includes all goods which have been moved in or produced for commerce, such as stock-in-trade, or raw materials that have been moved in or produced for commerce.

(b) "Handling * * * or otherwise working on goods." The term "handling * * * or otherwise working on goods" used in section 3(s) is substantially the same as the term used since 1938 in section 3(j) of the Act. Both terms will therefore be considered to have essentially the same meaning. (See part 776 of this chapter, the interpretative bulletin on the general coverage of the Act.) Thus, the activities encompassed in the term

§ 779.239 Meaning of "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce."

The term "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce," as used in section 3(s) of the Act in reference to employees who are so engaged is the same as the term which has been used in the Act for many years. The statutory definitions of these terms are set forth in §§779.12 through 779.16. The interpretative bulletin on general coverage part 776 of this chapter) contains the Division's interpretations as to which employees are "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce." These interpretations are equally applicable under section 3(s) in determining which employees are "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce" within the meaning of this section. A brief discussion of the guiding principles of retail or service establishments are "engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce" is set forth in subpart B of this part.

§ 779.238 Engagement in described activities determined on annual basis.

As set forth in the preceding section an enterprise to be a "covered enterprise" must have at least some employees engaged in certain described activities. This requirement will be determined on an annual basis in order to give full effect to the intent of Congress. Thus, it is not necessary that the enterprise have two or more employees engaged in the named activities every week. An enterprise described in section 3(s)(1) or (5) of the prior Act or in section 3(s)(1) of the Act as it was amended in 1966 will be considered to have employees engaged in commerce or in the production of goods for commerce, including the handling, selling or otherwise working on goods that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person, if during the annual period which it uses in calculating its annual sales for purposes of the other conditions of these sections, it regularly and recurrently has at least two or more employees engaged in such activities. On the other hand, it is plain that an enterprise that has employees engaged in such activities only in isolated or sporadic occasions, will not meet this condition.

§ 779.237 Employees handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods that have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person.
§ 779.241 Selling.

The statutory definition of the term “sale” or “sell” is quoted in §779.15. As long as the employee in any way participates in the sale of the goods he will be considered to be “selling” the goods, whether he physically handles them or not. Thus, if the employee performs any work that, in a practical sense is an essential part of consummating the “sale” of the particular goods, he will be considered to be “selling” the goods. “Selling” goods, under section 3(s) has reference only to goods which “have been moved in or produced for commerce by any person,” as discussed in §§779.242 and 779.243.

§ 779.242 Goods that “have been moved in” commerce.

For the purpose of section 3(s), goods will be considered to “have been moved * * * in commerce” when they have moved across State lines before they are handled, sold, or otherwise worked on by the employees. It is immaterial in such a case that the goods may have “come to rest” within the meaning of the term “in commerce” as interpreted in other respects, before they are handled, sold, or otherwise worked on by the employees in the enterprise. Such movement in commerce may take place before they have reached the enterprise, or within the enterprise, such as from a warehouse of the enterprise in one State to a retail store of the same enterprise located in another State. Thus, employees will be considered to be “handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods” where they are engaged in the described activities on “goods” that have moved across State lines at any time in the course of business, such as from the manufacturer to the distributor, or to the “enterprise,” or from one establishment to another within the “enterprise.” See the general discussion in part 776 of this chapter.

§ 779.243 Goods that have been “produced for commerce by any person.”

An employee will be considered to be handling, selling, or otherwise working on goods that have been “produced for commerce by any person” within the meaning of section 3(s), if he is performing the described activities with respect to goods which have been “produced for commerce” within the meaning of the Act. The term “produced” is defined in section 3(j) of the Act and, as explained above, has a well-established meaning under the existing law. (See §779.104 and part 776 of this chapter.) The word as it is used in the context of the phrase “goods * * * produced for commerce by any person” in section 3(s) has the same meaning as in 3(j). Therefore, where goods are considered “produced for commerce” within the meaning of section 3(j) of the Act they also will be considered “produced for commerce” within the meaning of section 3(s). A discussion of when goods are produced for commerce within the meaning of section 3(j) is contained in §779.108. Of course, within the meaning of section 3(s), the goods will be considered “produced for commerce” when they are so produced “by any person.”

COVERED RETAIL ENTERPRISE

§ 779.244 “Covered enterprises” of interest to retailers of goods or services.

Retailers of goods or services are primarily concerned with the enterprises described in sections 3(s)(1) and 3(s)(5)