

The Law on Child Labor and Agricultural Work

Agricultural employers must obtain a **permit** to employ persons under 18 years of age. A copy of the permit must be posted at the workplace and permission must be obtained from parents and school officials.



Generally, no children under the age of 14 may be employed in agriculture at any time. Exceptions are made for work in the hand harvest of berries, bulbs and cucumbers, and in the hand cultivation of spinach during weeks when school isn't in session.

Minors ages 14 and 15: can work up to three hours a day before or after school, and up to 21 hours per week while school is in session. On school days, the starting time can be no earlier than 7 a.m. and the finish

time can be no later than 8 p.m. During non-school weeks, they can work up to eight hours per day and 40 hours per week. During non-school days, the start and finish times are 5 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Ages 16 and 17: can work up to four hours a day before or after school, and up to 28 hours during school weeks. During non-school weeks, they can generally work up to 10 hour days and up to 50 hours per week. Start and finish times are 5 a.m. to 10 p.m., but no later than 9 p.m. on consecutive school nights before a school day.

Other regulations also apply. For questions, contact the nearest office of the **Department of Labor and Industries:**

- 509-454-3700 or 1-800-354-5423 (Yakima, Employment Standards)
- 1-800-292-5920 Wenatchee
- 1-800-547-9411 Tri-Cities
- (509) 527-4437 Walla Walla

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