

Iowa Division of Labor

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Labor Commissioner
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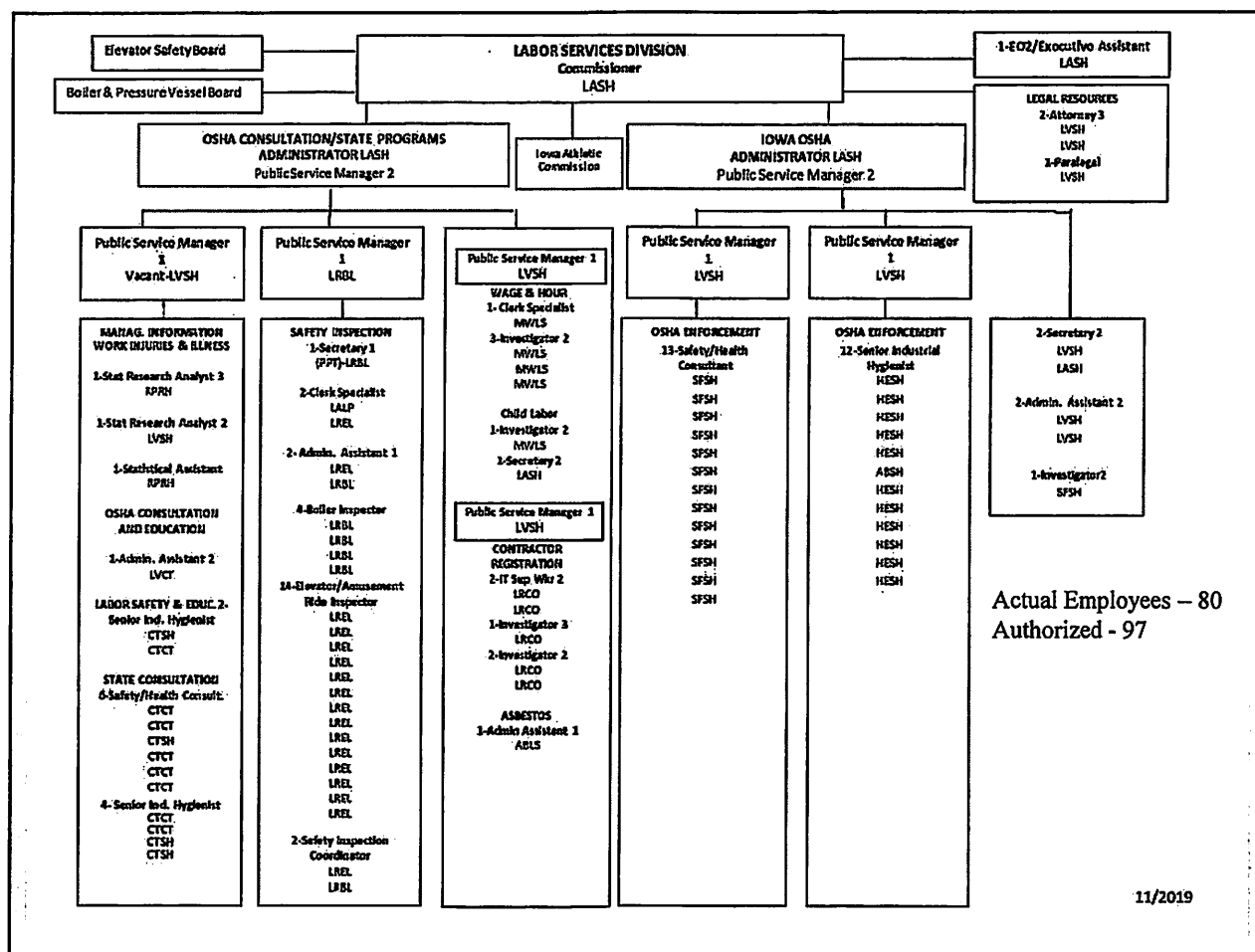
150 Des Moines Street





Protecting the safety, health and economic security of Iowans

Amusement Rides
Asbestos Permitting and Licensing
Athletics
Bidder Preference Law
Boiler & Pressure Vessels
Child Labor
Contractor Registration
Elevators & Wind Towers
Employment Agencies
OSHA Consultation & Enforcement
Wage



Although occupational safety and health may be the most well-known program in the portfolio of the Labor Commissioner, this office administers a wide variety of programs designed to protect the general public and employees.

Contractor Registration

Currently 18,510 construction contractors (14,767 in state/3,743 out of state) are registered to perform work in Iowa. The annual registration fee is \$50 but some small businesses can register without paying the fee.

Most contractors register online. Plumbing and HVAC contractors use an electronic "one-stop shop" to simultaneously register and obtain their licenses.

Benefits of the contractor registration program are:

- Increase compliance with unemployment insurance requirements.
- Increase compliance with worker's compensation requirements.
- Provide a bond the state can use to collect monies owed by out-of-state construction companies.
- Provide information to the public about registered contractors.

Asbestos Permits and Licenses

Currently about 100 businesses hold permits and 1,841 people hold licenses to perform asbestos abatement work. The program is designed to protect the public, the workers, and the environment from asbestos fibers. Inspections at job sites increase compliance with proper abatement protocols. Our web site allows the public to find out whether a person holds a license or a business holds a permit.

License fees range from \$20 to \$50. The permit fee is \$500.

Occupational Safety and Health

Iowa's Occupational Safety and Health (Iowa OSHA) Program is operated in partnership with the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Most of the program's funding comes from the Federal partners, and the codes are in most cases identical.

Iowa OSHA processes complaints about workplace safety and health, including complaints from whistleblowers. Complaints are usually filed electronically and can come through either the State's web site or the Federal web site. Depending on the circumstances, a complaint might result in a phone call to an employer or an on-site inspection.

- In more than 2,100 phone calls in FFY 2019, Iowa OSHA addressed a wide range of questions from the public. Some were reports of serious injuries, some were referred to other agencies or private attorneys, some needed OSHA compliance assistance, and some were OSHA complaints or referrals.
- OSHA addressed 650 safety and health complaints in FFY 2019.
- OSHA handles about 45 whistleblower complaints per year.

Boiler, Elevator and Amusement Rides

The Division of Labor also enforces technical safety and health codes to protect the public from potential hazards of amusement rides, boilers, pressure vessels, elevators, escalators, wind towers, and similar equipment. The Elevator Safety Board and the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Board each have members with a great deal of technical knowledge that is put to use to protect Iowans. Although complaint forms are available on our web page, each program receives only a few complaints each year.

Most of this equipment is inspected about once a year, and a significant number of the inspections are performed by private inspectors. In the last year, the Division of Labor issued authorizations for 118 private boiler inspectors, 13 private elevator inspectors, and 9 private amusement inspectors.

- Amusement ride inspections by state inspectors: 1,295
- Boiler and pressure vessel inspections by state inspectors: 2,392
- Elevator, escalator and wind tower inspections by state inspectors: 10,324
- Elevator, escalator and wind tower inspections by commissioned inspectors: 3,213
- Boiler and pressure vessel inspections by commissioned inspectors: 19,849
- Amusement ride inspections by inflatable owners: 527

Child labor

The Child Labor Program is designed to keep young people out of dangerous workplaces and keep them in school. The Division of Labor handles over 7,000 child labor permits annually, and most of the permit applications are submitted electronically. We also handle about 100 child labor investigations per year. Many of the investigations are initiated due to complaints from the public.

Wage

The Division of Labor enforces Iowa's minimum wage and wage payment collection laws. We receive well over 500 claims for wages in an average year. We accept claim forms electronically. Every claim is reviewed, and many of them are resolved informally. A few dozen claims each year result in legal action. Each month, the staff in this program also field a few thousand phone calls about general workplace conditions.

Athletic Events

The Iowa Labor Commissioner also serves as the State's Athletic Commissioner. The goal of this program is to minimize the risks to athletes and to the audience members at athletic events. Our staff also ensures the taxes are collected. As part of a national system, we issue professional boxer registration cards at a cost of \$25. Promoters are required to obtain an event license for a fee of \$100 or \$225. The application forms are available online, but electronic submission is not available.

Check Kaizen Event

September 30 – October 3, 2019

This event addressed the check cashing process beginning with the Iowa Division of Labor receiving the check to the check being scanned and deposited with Wells Fargo or for split checks receiving the completed request form back from financial management.



Team "Checkzen" Members

Dawn Chamberlain, Jackie Castillo, Jamie Cook-Hovey, Cheri Downey, Jeri Eveland, Michelle Gilbert, Kathleen Johnson, Melissa Kain, Mary Montgomery, Russell Perry, Sara Rahe, Tisha Scovel, Carrie Stief, and Darrin Telfer.

Background

- Division of Labor held a Kaizen event September 30 – October 3, 2019.
- Reason for the Kaizen - there was a lack of standard process for check cashing.
- Scope - This event will address the check cashing process beginning with the Iowa Division of Labor receiving the check to the check being scanned and deposited with Wells Fargo or for split checks receiving the completed request form back from financial management.

Key Results

- *Decreased the number of steps from 172 to 67*
- *Reduced cycle time from 21 hours to 5 hours*
- *Reduced hand offs from 45 to 12*

Highlights

- Comply with Auditor guidelines – only one person handles checks prior to being logged, separate person scans checks and a third reviewer reconciles.
- Accept cash as additional form of payment.
- Increased the security of the process (physical location).

Next Steps

- Goal is to implement the new process during March of 2020.
- The team will continue to work towards monthly implementation goals and may request your participation.