

# Iowa Division of Labor

## State Government Efficiency Review Committee

Rod A. Roberts  
Labor Commissioner

November 13, 2019

# 150 Des Moines Street












**IOWA STATE  
LABOR  
BUREAU**




**L. VAN VLECK**  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER




**W. J. RIBBLE**  
FACTORY INSPECTOR



**E. W. VAN DUYN**  
COMMISSIONER



**W. W. SHANNON**  
FACTORY INSPECTOR



**H. J. HEADRICK**  
DEPT. CLERK

The image is a decorative page for the Iowa State Labor Bureau. It features five oval portraits of men in suits, arranged around a central banner. The banner at the top reads 'IOWA STATE LABOR BUREAU'. Below the portraits are five nameplates with titles: L. Van Vleck (Deputy Commissioner), W.J. Ribble (Factory Inspector), E.W. Van Duyn (Commissioner), W.W. Shannon (Factory Inspector), and H.J. Headrick (Dept. Clerk). The design is ornate with floral and geometric patterns.



# Protecting the safety, health and economic security of Iowans

Amusement Rides

Asbestos Permitting and Licensing

Athletics

Bidder Preference Law

Boiler & Pressure Vessels

Child Labor

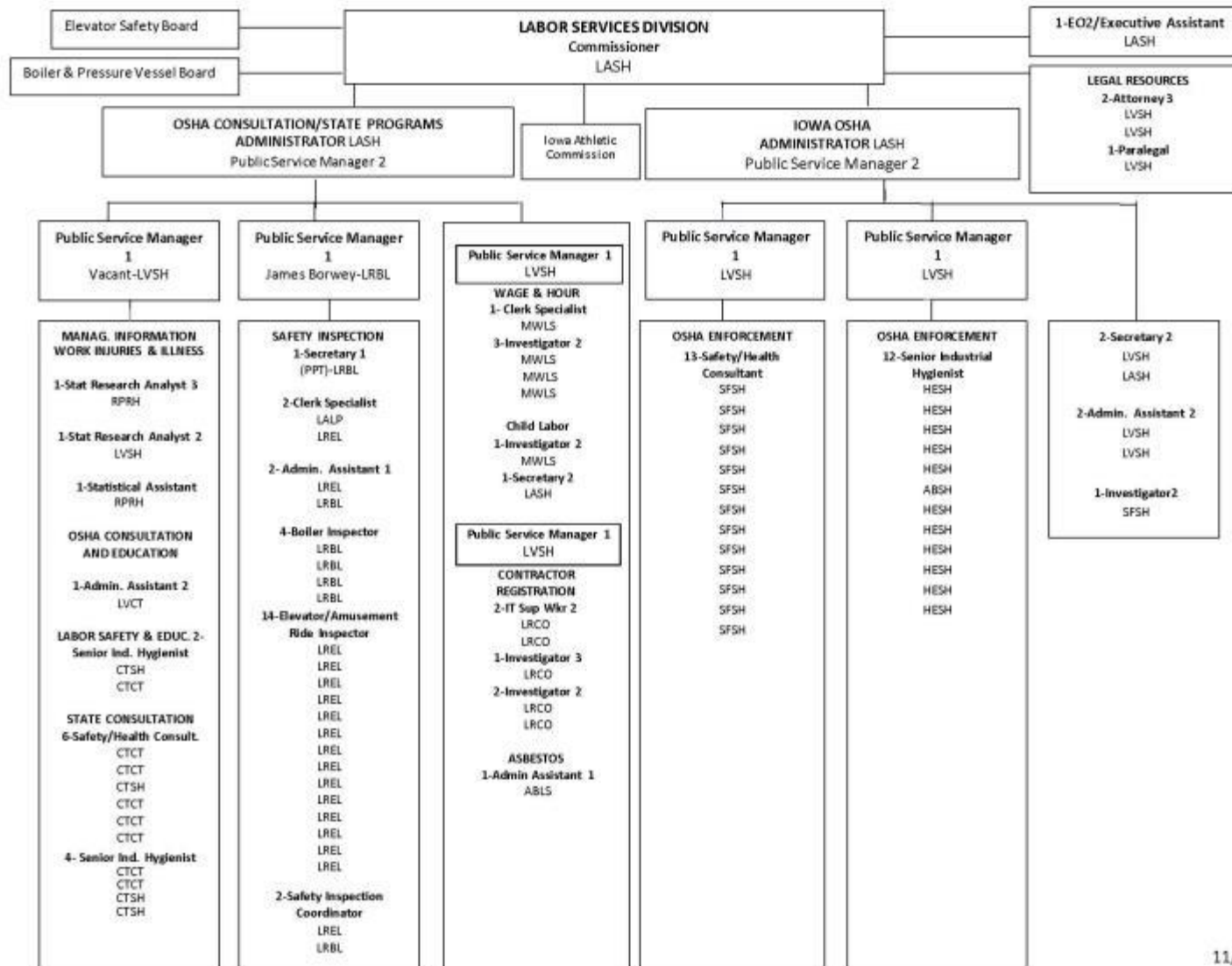
Contractor Registration

Elevators & Wind Towers

Employment Agencies

OSHA Consultation & Enforcement

Wage



11/2019



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.



# www.iowadivisionoflabor.gov

**DIVISION OF  
LABOR QUICK  
LINK RESOURCES**

- [Amusement Rides](#)
- [Boilers & Pressure Vessels](#)
- [Agriculture](#)
- [Bidder Preference](#)
- [Boilers & Pressure Vessels](#)
- [Child Labor](#)
- [Contractor Registration](#)
- [Elevators & Escalators](#)
- [Employment Agencies](#)
- [Iowa OSHA](#)
- [Wages](#)

**IOWA DIVISION OF LABOR**

WELCOME TO THE IOWA DIVISION OF LABOR



**ROD A. ROBERTS**  
LABOR COMMISSIONER

The Iowa Division of Labor protects the safety, health and economic security of Iowans. Our programs protect people who ride on elevators, escalators and amusement rides. We protect the people who are in a building with a boiler or a pressure vessel, or an asbestos abatement project. We protect employees from dangers in the workplace and protect the right of an employee to be paid. We protect Iowa's children from dangers in workplaces, and limit their hours of work so they can focus on education.

[Contact the Iowa Division of Labor](#)

# **Check Kaizen Event**

## **September 30 – October 3, 2019**

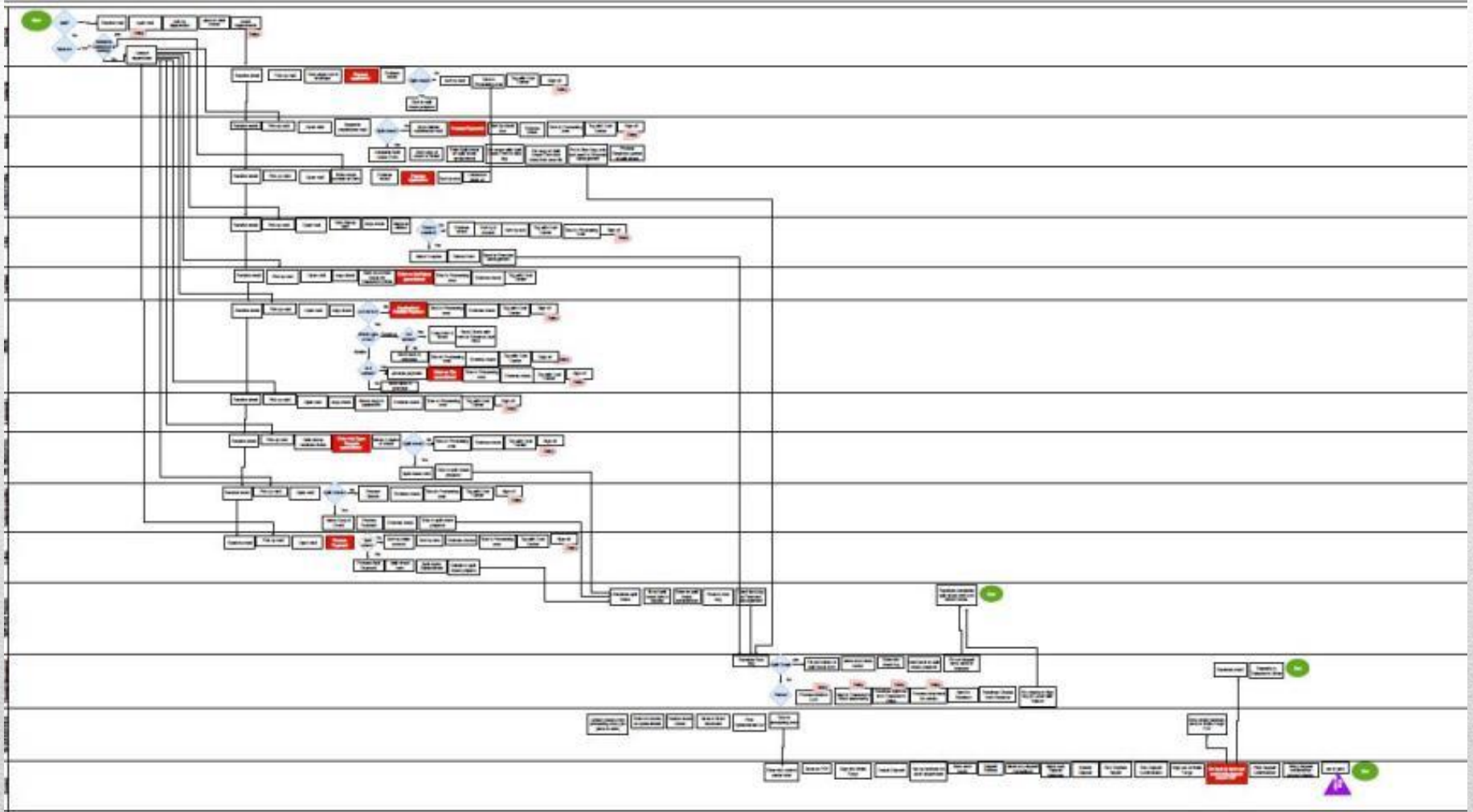
This event addressed the check cashing process beginning with the Iowa Division of Labor receiving the check to the check being scanned and deposited with Wells Fargo or for split checks receiving the completed request form back from financial management.



# Eliminating Waste

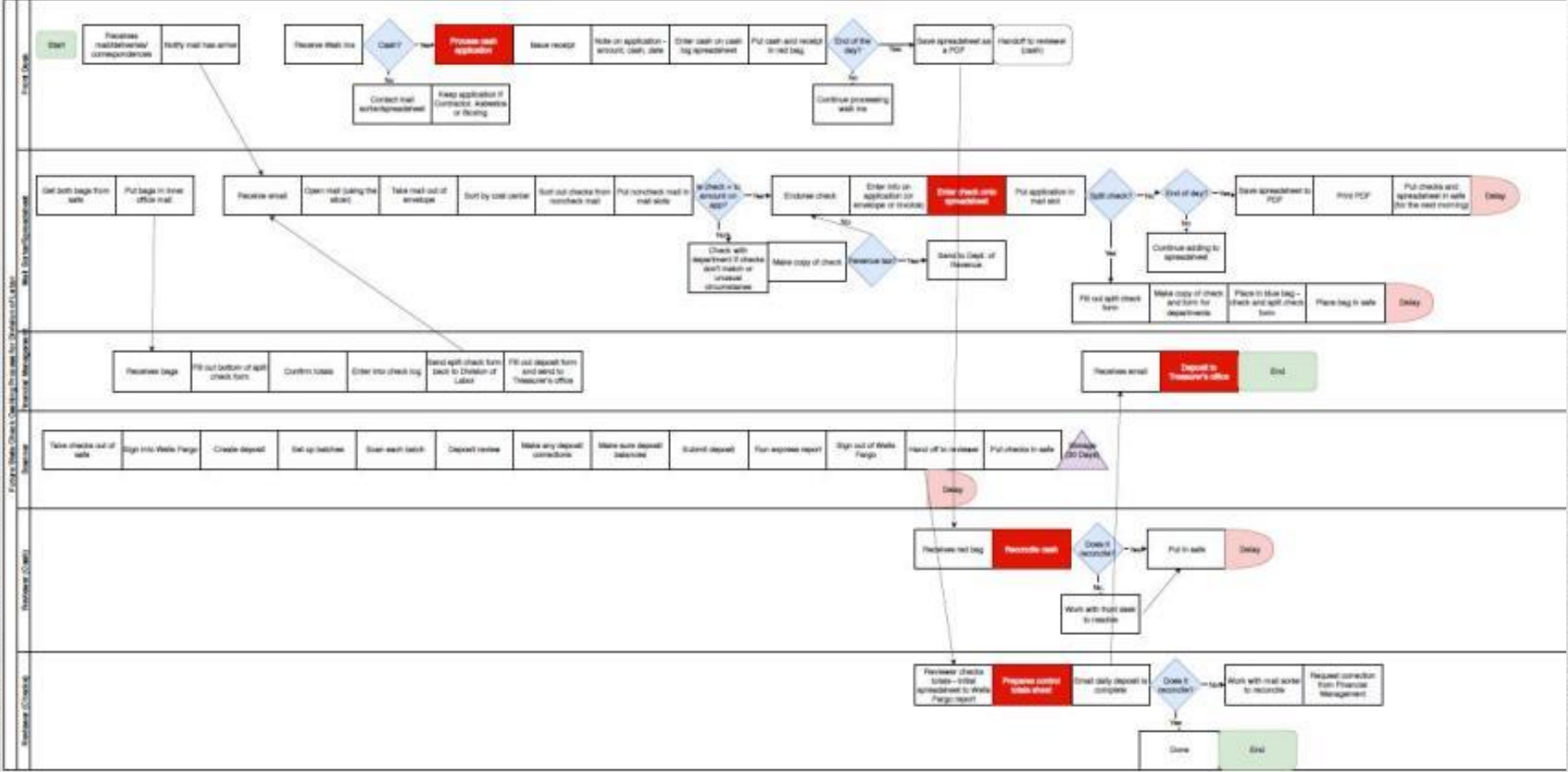
- **A better understanding of what everyone does in the process.**
- **A standard method of processing checks.**
- **Modernize the process.**
- **Reduce the number of handoffs.**

# Current Check Process





# March 2020 Check Process



# Collaborating with IDPH

On July 1, 2017, Contractor Registration and the Plumbing & Mechanical Systems Board began working together as a “one stop shop” for any contractor covered by the license requirements of Iowa Code chapter 105.

Covered businesses apply for a 3 year contractor registration number and their plumbing or HVAC license as one seamless process.