

Occupation Rules:

Seventeen non-farm jobs determined to be hazardous by the Secretary of Labor, are prohibited for young workers below the age of 18. Generally, youth may not work at jobs that involve:

1. Manufacturing or storing explosives
2. Any driving by 16-year-olds, certain driving for 17-year-olds,
and being an outside helper on a motor vehicle
(limited driving by 17-year-olds is permitted)
3. Coal mining
4. Logging and sawmilling, forest fire prevention, forest fire fighting, timber tract management, and forestry services
5. Power-driven woodworking machines*
6. Exposure to radioactive substances and to ionizing radiations
7. Power-driven hoisting equipment
8. Power-driven metal-forming, punching, and shearing
machines*
9. Mining, other than coal
10. Meat packing and meat and poultry processing, including using power-driven meat slicing machines in retail and food service establishment*
11. Power-driven bakery machines, including mixers
12. Balers, compactors, and power-driven paper products machines*
13. Manufacturing brick, tile, and related products
14. Power-driven circular saws, band saws, and guillotine shears*
15. Wrecking, demolition, and ship breaking operations
16. Roofing occupations and all work on or about a roof*
17. Excavation operations*

14 and 15 Years of Age

Hours Rules:

14- and 15-year-olds may work outside of school hours in certain jobs (see below) for up to:

★3 hours on a school day, including Fridays

★18 hours in a school week

★8 hours on a non-school day

★40 hours in a non-school week

Also, the work must be performed between the hours of 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., except from June 1 through Labor Day, when the evening hour is extended to 9:00 p.m.

Federal Occupation Rules:

The regulations contain a specific list of permitted occupations for 14- and 15-year-olds. Those jobs include those generally located in:

★offices ★baseball parks

★grocery stores ★schools

★retail stores ★amusement parks

★restaurants ★movie theaters

★gasoline service stations

Fourteen- and 15-year-olds may not work in the following occupations:

★communications or public utilities jobs

★construction or repair jobs

★driving a motor vehicle or helping a driver

★manufacturing, mining, and processing occupations

★using power-driven machinery hoisting apparatus or, machinery other than typical office machines

★public messenger jobs

★transporting of persons or property

★work in workrooms where products are manufactured, mined, or processed

★occupations in warehousing and storage or

★youth peddling, door-to-door sales, and “sign waving”

★ poultry catching

★ using meat slicers

★ cooking over an open flame

In addition, 14- and 15-year-olds may not work in any job or occupation declared hazardous by the Secretary of Labor and listed in the previous section 16 and 17 Years of Age: Occupation Rules of this guide.

Child Labor Laws - Texas Workforce Regulations

The following are prohibited occupations for 14- through 17-year-old children:

Prohibited occupations are the same for both federal and state law. The hazardous occupations designated by an asterisk (*) have provisions for employment of persons below the age of eighteen (18), provided applicable apprentice or student-learner certification has been obtained. Persons desiring specific information about these exceptions should contact the nearest office of the United States Department of Labor.

Occupations declared particularly hazardous or detrimental to the health or well-being of all children 14 through 17 years of age include occupations:

(1) in or about plants or establishments other than retail establishments which manufacture or store explosives or articles containing explosive components other than retail establishments,

(2) involving the driving of motor vehicles and outside helpers

A. on any public road or highway,

B. in or about any place where logging or sawmill operations are in progress, or

C. in excavations.

(Under certain conditions, driving a motor vehicle for a commercial purpose is NOT considered a hazardous occupation under state or federal law,

(3) connected with coal mining,

(4) in logging and sawmill occupations and occupations involving firefighting and timber tracts,

(5) *in operating or assisting to operate power-driven woodworking machines,

(6) involving exposure to radioactive substances and to ionizing radiations,

(7) in operating or assist to operate power-driven hoisting apparatus such as elevators, cranes, derricks, hoists, high-lift trucks,

(8) * in operating or assisting to operate power-driven metal forming, punching, and shearing machines,

(9) in connection with mining, other than coal,

(10) * in operating or assisting to operate power-driven meat processing machines, and occupations including slaughtering, meat packing, processing, or rendering,

(11) in operating or assisting to operate power-driven bakery machines.

(12) * involved in the operation of power-driven paper-products machines, balers and compactors,

(13) in manufacturing brick, tile, and kindred products,

(14) * in operating or assisting to operate power-driven circular saws, bandsaws and guillotine shears, abrasive cutting discs, reciprocating saws, chain saws and wood-chippers,

(15) in wrecking, demolition, and ship-breaking operations,

(16) * in roofing operations and on or about a roof, and

(17) * in connection with excavation operations.

Additional prohibited occupations that apply only to 14- and 15-year-old children:

Occupations declared particularly hazardous or detrimental to the health or well-being of 14- and 15-year-old children include:

(1) mining, manufacturing, or processing occupations, including duties in workrooms or places where goods are manufactured, mined, or otherwise processed,

(2) operating or assisting in operating power-driven machinery or hoisting apparatus other than typical office machines,

(3) work as a ride attendant or ride operator at an amusement park or a “dispatcher” at the top of elevated water slides,

(4) driving a motor vehicle or helping a driver,

(5) occupations involved in transporting persons or property by rail, highway, air, water, pipeline, or other means,

(6) youth peddling, sign waving, or door-to-door sales,

(7) poultry catching or cooping,

(8) lifeguarding at a natural environment such as a lake, river, ocean beach, quarry, pond (youth must be at least 15 years of age and properly certified to be a lifeguard at a traditional swimming pool or water amusement park),

(9) public messenger jobs,

(10) communications and public utilities jobs,

(11) construction including demolition and repair, work performed in or about boiler or engine rooms or in connection with the maintenance or repair of the establishment, machines, or equipment,

(12) outside window washing that involves working from windowsills, and all work requiring the use of ladders, scaffolds or their substitutes,

(13) cooking, except with gas or electric grills that do not involve cooking over an open flame and with deep fat fryers that utilize devices that automatically lower and raise the baskets from the hot grease or oil,

(14) baking and all activities involved in baking,

(15) occupations which involve operating, setting up, adjusting, cleaning, oiling, or repairing power-driven food slicers and grinders, food choppers and cutters, and bakery-type mixers,

(16) freezers or meat coolers work, except minors may occasionally enter a freezer for a short period of time to retrieve items,

(17) meat processing and work in areas where meat is processed,

(18) loading and unloading goods to and from trucks, railroad cars or conveyors, and

(19) all occupations in warehouses and storage except office and clerical work.

Work times for 14- and 15-year-old children:

Texas State Law — A person commits an offense if that person permits a child 14 or 15 years of age who is employed by that person to work:

(1) more than 8 hours in one day or more than 48 hours in one week,

(2) between the hours of 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. on a day that is followed by a school day or between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. on a day that is not followed by a school day if the child is enrolled in school, or

(3) between the hours of midnight and 5 a.m. on any day during the time school is recessed for the summer if the child is not enrolled in summer school.