



City of Emeryville

INCORPORATED 1896

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Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) Emeryville's Fair Workweek Ordinance Effective July 1, 2017 Last Updated: November 4, 2017

INTRODUCTION

On November 1, 2017, the City Council of the City of Emeryville adopted the City's Fair Workweek Employment Standards (Ordinance) (Chapter 39 of Title 5 of the Emeryville Municipal Code), which establishes to provide standards for work hours for employees in the retail and fast food industries above and beyond the requirements of state law. This Ordinance was amended on October 17, 2017 and effective on November 17, 2017.

The Ordinance establishes standards for work hours for employees in the retail and fast food industries above and beyond the requirements of state law. The Ordinance also requires adequate notice of work schedules, compensation for employer initiated schedule changes, access to sufficient hours of work for part time employees, healthy rest between shifts, and a protected right to have input into schedules which protects the public health, safety and welfare by ensuring that employees within the City of Emeryville can care for their families, attend classes and medical appointments, budget their weekly income, and conduct other essential activities in a manner that enables and facilitates their individual self-reliance.

Note that federal, state and local laws pertaining to wages and paid sick leave also apply.

This memorandum answers frequently asked questions to help Employers, Employees, and others understand and comply with the law in Emeryville. It is divided into sections: General Information, followed by questions pertaining to each section of the Ordinance. **This is a general guide and resource, and does not constitute legal advice.** It may be updated from time to time, as deemed appropriate by the City. The full text of the existing Ordinance can be found here:

<http://www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/1136/Fair-Workweek-Ordinance>

If you have questions about this guide or questions about the law that are not addressed here, please email: fairworkweek@emeryville.org



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GENERAL INFORMATION

- 1. When did Emeryville's new Fair Workweek Employment Standards Ordinance ("Ordinance") go into effect?**

Answer: The Ordinance went into effect July 1, 2017. The Ordinance was later amended on October 17, 2017 and effective November 17, 2017.

- 2. What City department is implementing the Ordinance?**

Answer: The City Manager's Office is responsible for implementing the Ordinance. The City Manager has designated the responsibilities for implementation to the Economic Development and Housing department as well as contracted out services to Mills College and The Labor Compliance Managers.

- 3. Where can I call with questions?**

Answer: Employers, Employees, and others should call (510) 510-596-4351 or email fairworkweek@emeryville.org with questions.

- 4. Does the Ordinance protect undocumented workers?**

Answer: Workers reporting violations of the Ordinance with the City of Emeryville will not be questioned about their immigration status.

- 5. What employees are covered by the Ordinance?**

Answer: Nonexempt Full time and Part time employees that work more or less than 35 hours per week, Temporary, On-Call, contract and seasonal employees who are employed by retail with 56 or more employees globally or fast food firms with 56 or more employees globally and 20 or more employees in Emeryville.

- 6. Are Exempt Employees covered by the Ordinance?**

Answer: No.

- 7. What employers are covered by the Ordinance?**

Answer: Covered Employers include Retail Firms with 56 or more Employees globally and fast food firms with 56 or more employees globally and 20 or more Employees within the city limits of Emeryville. This includes franchisees associated with a franchisor or a network of franchisees with more than 12 locations globally.

8. Does the Ordinance apply to Employers located outside the City but who employ Employees performing work in Emeryville?

Answer: Yes.

9. What are the Ordinance administrative requirements for Employers?

Answer: Employers are required to:

- 1) Retain records to document compliance with the ordinance and regulations for no less than 3 years including but not limited to
 - a. spreadsheets or databases used for calculation of number of employees;
 - b. calculations of employee rates of pay including commission analysis;
 - c. work schedules transmitted to employees, including correspondence with employees regarding schedule changes regardless of timing
 - d. postings and correspondence of additional hours available
 - e. correspondence with employees regarding flexible working arrangements; and
 - f. any other records referenced in the regulations or Ordinance.

The Ordinance prohibits retaliation or discrimination against any person seeking to exercise their rights provided by the Ordinance.

10. Who should be counted in determining Employer size?

Answer: Calculations should include temporary, on-call and seasonal employees who work at a retail or fast food firm as long as the meet the definition set forth in Section 5-39.01(d). The basis is on the number of all individuals employed within the City of Emeryville and not based on numbers of employees at each location. In addition, it shall not be calculated using the number of FTEs (see Section 5-39.02).

11. Does the Ordinance apply to full-time, part- time, and temporary Employees?

Answer: Yes

12. What if the number of persons performing work changes from week to week or month to month?

Answer: For businesses employing a fluctuating number of persons performing work during a quarter (13 weeks), Employer size is based on the weekly average number of persons performing work for compensation during the quarter beginning January 1 of that year. (For example: A business that employs 50 persons during the first 6 weeks of the quarter and 65 persons during the last 7 weeks of the quarter would have a weekly average of 58 Employees per week, thus categorizing the Employer as a covered employer subject to the Ordinance.

(50 Employees/week x 6 weeks) + (65 Employees/week x 7 weeks)

13 weeks

=

58

13. How does a new business determine its size?

Answer: In this situation, businesses should calculate business size for the current calendar quarter based upon the average number of persons per week who worked for compensation for the first ninety (90) days after the first Employee(s) began work.

14. Can an Employee waive his/her rights under the Ordinance?

Answer: An Employee's rights under the Ordinance can only be waived through a bona fide collective bargaining agreement that contains clear and unambiguous terms setting forth in such waiver.

15. What can an Employee do if an Employer does not pay him/her Predictability Pay or retaliates against an Employee?

Answer: Employees can seek advice from an attorney and/or file a lawsuit against their Employer. They may also submit a complaint to the City of Emeryville. Employees are entitled to all remedies available to correct a violation of this law, including back pay, reinstatement, injunctive relief, and/or attorneys' fees and witness fees and costs. Additionally, any Employer who violates this law and/or retaliates against an Employee may be liable for civil penalties in the amount of \$500.00 per violation and \$1,000 for each Employee retaliated against, the amount to be determined by a Hearing Officer.

16. How does an Employee file a complaint with the City of Emeryville?

Answer: Complaints must be initiated by submitting a completed Claim Declaration on the form provided by the City. Copies of the Claim Declaration form are available from the City via email or U.S. mail request; by download from the <http://www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/1136/Fair-Workweek-Ordinance> webpage; or from City Hall at 1333 Park Avenue, Emeryville, CA 94608, during regular business hours. Email requests for a Claim Declaration form should be directed to: Labor Standards staff at complaints.laborstandards@emeryville.org. Claim Declaration forms may be mailed or submitted in person to the City Hall address above or submitted via email to: complaints.laborstandards@emeryville.org. The Claim Declaration form can also be filled out and submitted directly from the website on the Minimum Wage Ordinance webpage, found at the following link: <http://www.ci.emeryville.ca.us/1136/Fair-Workweek-Ordinance>

Supporting documents related to the complaint should accompany the Claim Declaration form. (For example: claims regarding Predictability Pay issues should provide pay stubs, and written schedules, claims regarding failure of Employer to post notice of rights may include photos, claims regarding retaliation may include emails from Employers and/or contacts of those who may be witnesses).

17. Does an Employer need to provide notice of an Employee's rights under the Ordinance?

Answer: Yes

18. Does the Ordinance apply to Employees covered by an existing collective bargaining agreement?

Answer: Yes. The Ordinance is a law of general application that applies to all Employees who are eligible under the law, whether represented by a union or not. However, the requirements of the Ordinance may be waived by a bona fide collective bargaining agreement. The waiver must be expressed in clear, unambiguous language.

19. Can an Employer take any adverse action against an Employee for requesting to a Flexible Workweek Schedule and/or filing a complaint for any non-compliance with the Ordinance?

Answer: No, retaliation is barred. An Employer may not retaliate against an Employee and it is unlawful to take adverse action against an Employee who asserts his/her rights provided by the Ordinance. Retaliation may include, but is not limited to, discouraging complaints regarding noncompliance with the Ordinance, reducing vacation/PTO hours or other non-wage benefits, increasing expenses for non-exempt Employees for items such as parking, meals, and/or uniforms. A "non-exempt Employee" means an Employee who is non-exempt under federal or state laws. This applies regardless of whether the City ultimately finds the Employer to be out of compliance.

20. What role does the City of Emeryville have in ensuring compliance with the Ordinance?

Answer: The City may investigate complaints of possible violations of the Ordinance. The Ordinance requires Employers to permit authorized City representatives access to worksites and relevant records, which may include the production of records, to monitor compliance with this law, and investigate Employee complaints or non-compliance. The City may attempt to remedy any case through informal resolution. The City may also pursue administrative compliance orders and impose administrative fines for non-compliance. In addition, the City may initiate a civil judicial action for injunctive relief, damages, and penalties for non-compliance.

21. Can an Employer dispute a compliance order issued by the City?

Answer: Yes. A compliance order shall become final unless a complete written request for an administrative hearing before the City is received fourteen (14) days of service of the compliance order. The date of service of the compliance order shall be the date of mailing. The request for a hearing shall be submitted on a form provided by the City. If an Employer does not submit a complete written request within the above timeframe, the Employer shall waive any right to an administrative hearing.

22. If an Employer submits a written request for a hearing, when will it be scheduled?

Answer: If a written request for an administrative hearing is filed with the City within the timeframe described in Question 19, the City Clerk shall set a hearing date before

a Hearing Officer that is 15 to 45 days from the date of filing. A notice of the scheduled hearing shall be mailed to the Employer and the affected Employee(s) at least ten (10) days before the date of the hearing. If multiple citations are being appealed, these appeals may be consolidated into one hearing. The decision of the Hearing Officer shall be final, and may uphold or dismiss the compliance order in its entirety or in part, including the assessment of fines.

23. Is there a difference between cancelling a shift and calling in as it pertains to predictability pay?

Answer: Yes. If an employer cancels a shift in less than 14 days, employee is entitled to predictability pay. If an employee calls in sick the employee is entitled to sick leave but not predictability pay. The employee who is called in to cover the shift would be entitled to predictability pay.

24. Do I have to offer additional work to both full time and part time employees?

Answer: Cover employer is not obligated to offer overtime but may offer work hours to qualified part-time employees. In addition, employer must have a written policy and documented procedure for offering additional work hours.

25. If an Employee who is scheduled to work a shift the next day, asks for the next shift off, will the Employee be penalized in any way?

Answer: Pursuant to Section 5-39.04 Notice, Right to Decline, an Employee should not be penalized. A covered employer may not retaliate against an Employee for declining a schedule change under section 5-39.04(b)

26. What are some examples of retaliation?

Answer: Employee files a complaint with the city of Emeryville and during the investigation process the employer suspends or fires her for an unjustifiable reason. Retaliation does not always result in suspension it can also be mistreatment, elimination from communication or company events or meetings, reduction in work hours, etc. while still employed.

27. If you request a flexible working arrangement, are you guaranteed full time hours or part time hours and pay?

Answer: No.

28. Does the Employee have a right to a flexible working arrangement?

Answer: Yes pursuant to Section 5-39.07 of the Ordinance, employee has the right to request a flexible working arrangement. The Ordinance does not create a right to a flexible working arrangement, but federal or state law may require the Covered Employer to accommodate an Employee's request. Please contact your human resources department or lawyer for further information.

- 29. Does an Employee dying constitute an act of nature that would exempt an Employer from owing Predictability Pay to Employees who will cover the deceased Employee's shifts?**

Answer: No. An Employee's death does not constitute an act of nature.

- 30. At what point does an Employee picking up hours become a full time employee?**

Answer: The Employee would be considered a full time employee at 35 hours per week.

- 31. When a Covered Employer notifies qualified Part-Time Employees of additional hours, and a Part-Time Employee volunteers for the additional hours, does the Covered Employer still have to pay the Part-Time Employee Predictability Pay?**

Answer: Yes.

- 32. If an Employee calls in sick, and the Covered Employer has to call in another Employee to cover that Shift, does the Covered Employer have to pay Predictability Pay to the Employee covering the Shift?**

Answer: Yes.

- 33. May a Covered Employer use a methodology for posting, such as texting, if that methodology causes the Employee to incur costs?**

Answer: No.

- 34. If the Shift is slow, may a Covered Employer asks for volunteers to go home?**

Answer: Yes. The Employer will have to pay Predictability Pay for the remaining hours scheduled to work

- 35. Do Employees need to sign a form to indicate they are voluntarily initiating a change in their Work Schedule or Shift?**

Answer: The Ordinance does not require Employees to sign a form to voluntarily initiate a change in their Work Schedule or Shift. However, the Covered Employer is required to maintain documentation for three years to show compliance with the Ordinance and its implementing regulations, and therefore, the Covered Employer may want to document through the use of a signed form that they are voluntarily initiating a change in their Work schedule or shift.

- 36. If an Employee works past the end of a scheduled shift to complete service to a customer, which service would entitle the Employee to receive a commission, tip or other incentive pay based on the completion of that service, is the employee entitled to overtime pay?**

Answer: Although we state that the regular rate of pay must be granted to the employee, it is also implied throughout the ordinance that state and federal law

applies in all situations as appropriate, including the payment of overtime in certain instances. In this case, overtime should be paid.

- 37. Employee voluntarily-initiated shift modifications, such as, voluntary requests to leave a scheduled shift prior to the end of the shift trigger predictability pay.**

Answer: Employee voluntarily initiated shift modifications, such as, voluntary requests to leave a scheduled shift PRIOR to the end of the shift does not warrant Predictability Pay. Further, the changes that are neither a shift swap between employees or initiated by anyone other than the employee (the employer or only another employee) or an addition of hours would be subject to predictability pay.

- 38. Does changes that are not initiated by the employee such as, if their coworker had suggested a shift change instead of themselves qualify for Predictability Pay?**

Answer: Yes.