

NEWS RELEASE



STATE OF ALABAMA
Department of
Industrial Relations
News For Immediate Release
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FOREIGN LABOR PROGRAM TELEPHONE SERVICE LAUNCHED

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA, July 11, 2007 A new automated telephone system, accessible daily around the clock, makes it easier to obtain information on Alabama's Foreign Labor Program.

"The Alabama Department of Industrial Relations launched a 'telephone tree' on July 9 to provide details on the Foreign Labor Program, including the current status of Prevailing Wage requests, as well as H-2A and H-2B labor certification cases," says Phyllis Kennedy, Industrial Relations director. "By calling 334-353-8190, employers and their associates may keep up-to-date on the status of their requests without having to speak to a staff person. However, staff will continue to be available to answer specific questions about individual cases."

Prevailing wage is the average wage paid to similarly-employed workers in a particular occupation. H-2A relates to temporary or seasonal agricultural employment of non-immigrant foreign workers, while H-2B applies to temporary or seasonal non-agricultural employment of non-immigrant foreign workers.

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Industrial Relations is an umbrella organization of State government which administers: the State Employment Service, Unemployment Insurance, Workers' Compensation, and Labor Market Information. Smaller programs also administered include Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation, Mine Safety and Inspection, and Surface Mining of Non-Fuel Minerals. For more information on Industrial Relations, visit the Web site: <http://dir.alabama.gov/>.