

Public Sector Industrial Relations

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Title Amendment to the *Engineering Award - State*
Date 21 July 2000 Circular No. 4/00

Amendment to a number of provisions of the *Engineering Award - State* effective from 11 September 2000

On 26 June 2000, the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission issued an Amendment to the *Engineering Award – State*, effective from 11 September 2000, which was published in the Queensland Government Industrial Gazette on 7 July 2000 (Vol. 164 No.11 p251-257).

The amendments to the award were sought by the Queensland Chamber of Commerce and Industry for a number of reasons including a need for the award to be rationalised and restructured and also for its provisions to be more closely aligned with the Federal parent award, the *Metal Engineering and Associated Industries Award 1988*.

Outline of Changes

Your attention is drawn to the following changes contained in the Amendment:

- Provision for the **Payment of Wages** (clause 2.8(2)) every 4 weeks or monthly in addition to weekly or fortnightly;
- Changes in the definitions of **Shift Work** (clause 3.2(4)) and **Casual Employment** (clause 3.4(3));
- Alteration to the **Tool Allowance** (clause 3.5(39)) to make it divisible resulting in the payment of a daily rate;
- Substantially amending **Travelling and Board** (clause 3.9)) by removing the concept of “country work” and “suburban work” and various vehicle allowances; increase in the overnight accommodation allowance; alteration to the camp allowance to make it divisible resulting in the payment of a daily rate;
- Alteration to **Shift Work** (clause 4.3) to facilitate the working of 10 hour shifts;
- Provision for the working of reasonable **Overtime** (clause 4.4);
- Amendments to **Meal Breaks** (clause 4.5) and **Meal Allowance** (clause 4.6) to eliminate problems of interpretation, to provide flexibility and to reflect state standards.

Public Sector Employees

Agencies should note that there are a number of variations included in the Amendment that will have no application to employees in Queensland Government departments and agencies who are covered by the State Government Departments Certified Agreement 2000 (the Agreement).

This is due to the effect of clause 2.2(1)(b) of the Agreement which provides for a flow-on of decisions of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, (including General Rulings and Statements of Policy), where such decisions provide conditions that are not less favourable than current conditions.

Arising from this clause are a number of current award provisions that will be preserved for the life of the Agreement, namely until 30 April 2003.

Examples of Retention of More Favourable Conditions

These include:

- Retention of **Tool Allowance** payments where applicable in respect of periods of less than one week;
- Retention of the payment of the current **Camp Allowance** of \$77 per week in respect of periods of less than one week; provided that the maximum amount payable shall be \$96.60 per week.

Please ensure when distributing this information within your agency that you nominate your own contact officer to respond to enquiries from staff within your agency.



JIM MCGOWAN
General Manager



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The Division of Public Sector Industrial Relations provides policy advice and consultancy and training services to Queensland Government departments and agencies. It is part of the Department of Employment, Training and Industrial Relations.

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