

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

WATCHDOG

2007 STANDARD MILEAGE RATES

Beginning January 1, 2007, the standard mileage rates for the use of a car (including vans, pickups or panel trucks) is

- 48.5 cents per mile for business miles driven;
- 20 cents per mile driven for medical or moving purposes; and
- 14 cents per mile driven in service to a charitable organization.

The new rate for business miles compares to a rate of 44.5 cents per mile for 2006. The new rate for medical and moving purposes compares to 18 cents in 2006. The primary reasons for the higher rates were higher prices for vehicles and fuel during the year ending in October.

The standard mileage rates for business, medical and moving purposes are based on an annual study of the fixed and variable costs of operating an automobile. Runzheimer International, an independent contractor, conducted the study for the IRS.

The mileage rate for charitable miles is set by statute.

NEWSPRINT CERTIFICATION DUE

All newsprint consumers (e.g., California printers and publishers) must ensure that at least half of the newsprint they annually use is recycled-content newsprint (RCN).

By March 1, all newsprint consumers must certify to the California Integrated Waste Management Board (CIWMB)

POST OSHA FORM 300A

OSHA requires that employers post a summary of the total number of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred last year. Summaries must be posted from February 1 to April 30, 2007. Employers are only required to post the Summary (OSHA Form 300A), not the OSHA 300 Log.

The summary must list the total numbers of job-related injuries and illnesses that occurred in 2006 and were logged on the OSHA 300 form. Employment information about annual average number of employees and total hours worked during the calendar year is also required. Companies with no recordable injuries or illnesses in 2006 must post the form with zeros on the total line. All establishment summaries must be certified by a company executive.

The form should be displayed in a common area wherever notices to employees are usually posted. A copy of the summary must be made available to employees who move between work sites, such as construction workers, and employees who do not report to any one location on a regular basis.

Employers with 10 or fewer employees are normally exempt from federal OSHA injury and illness recordkeeping and posting requirements.

You can download the forms from the Cal/OSHA website at www.piasc.org under the Human Resources icon.

the amount of RCN their businesses used in the past year. In California, only newsprint that contains at least 40 percent post consumer material by weight is classified as RCN.

Analysis of the 2005 RCN certifications submitted by the consumers and manufacturers provide the following statistics:

- 64 percent of all the newsprint used in California was RCN. This represents a 3 percent decrease from 2004.
- 100 percent of the newsprint consumers submitted certification reports on time, representing the

highest compliance rate since the program began in 1991. Only 15 percent of the consumers requested exemptions; however, this is an increase of 3 percent over 2004.

- Total newsprint use decreased by 3 percent from 2004, from 1,574,009 to 1,528,816 metric tons.

Companies that don't submit the certification report or submit it late face the following penalties:

- 45- 90 days late \$ 500.00
- 90 or more days late \$1,000.00

For a copy of the certification packet call Gerry Bonetto at 323-728-9500, Ext. 248.



Affiliated Associations:

Printing Industries of California

Printing Industries of Northern California www.pinc.org

Printing Industries Assn. of Southern California www.piasc.org

Printing Industries Assn. of San Diego, Inc. www.piasd.org

(323) 728-9500

(415) 495-8242

(323) 728-9500

(858) 571-6555

LABOR LAW POSTERS

PIC has available for members 2007 updated state and federal notices in a handsome, laminated three posters set for all your compliance requirements: combines all state and federal notices (24" x 39") , industry specific wage orders #1 and #4 (24" x 39"), and unchanged but required Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (8½" x 11").

The posters are attorney-approved and, as we have said, meet all your general state and federal posting requirements. The set is available to PIC members for the well-below market price of \$49.80, which includes shipping materials, postage, and tax.

Some companies may be required to post additional notices depending on their operation, such as forklifts, fire extinguishers, and bloodborne pathogens. We have those also.

Employers should display the poster anywhere all employees can easily read it, such as a break room, common hallway, payroll office or other common location. In addition, employers must display several of the posters (polygraph protection, and state and federal anti-discrimination posters) where job applicants can read them. Also, employers must post the poster in each company location.

The easiest way to order the posters is online at www.piasc.org under the icon Labor Law Posters, or by calling Genie Medrano at 323-728-9500, Ext. 211.

TITLE V REPORT

All Title V facilities must submit to the Executive Officer of their air quality district and to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) an annual compliance certification.

For RECLAIM facilities (of which there are hardly any in the printing industry), the certification is due when the Annual Permit Emissions Program is due and shall cover the same reporting period.

For other Title V facilities, the certification is due on March 1 for the previous calendar year. To download the two page

OCCUPATIONAL LEAD POISONING FEE

Each year many printing companies received a notice from the Board of Equalization (BOE) regarding a fee (in other words, tax) for using lead in the workplace. That you received this notice doesn't mean you necessarily use products that contain lead. The notice is sent to companies in specific SIC classifications, including those for various printing processes.

If you don't use lead in the workplace, such as hot type or inks, both of which are rare in the industry today, you can apply for a waiver from this fee. To request a fee waiver, mark Box 1a on your fee return. Then sign, date, and return it to the BOE by the due date.

The Department of Health Services (DHS) will send you a fee waiver packet. You must complete the fee waiver application and submit it to DHS by the end of August. If you haven't received the application by the end of May, we suggest you contact DHS at 510-622-4332 to get the packet.

We'll repeat this notice in the March issue of *Watchdog*.

annual Compliance Certification (For 500-ACC), go to www.aqmd.gov. Click on Business, then Forms, then Compliance Forms and Other Information, then Title V Forms, and finally Form 500-ACC Annual Compliance Certification for Title V.

The original copy of the certification must be sent to your local air district and a copy must be sent to Director of Air Division, Attn: Air-3 USEPA, Region IX, 75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105.

NEW SALES TAX PENALTY

Senate Bill 1449, which went into effect on January 1, provides that any person who knowingly collects sales tax reimbursement, or use tax, and who fails to pay that tax reimbursement or use tax collected for a penalty of 40 percent of that amount.

The penalty will not apply to any person whose liability for the unpaid tax averages \$1,000 or less per month, or does not exceed five percent of the total tax liability for which the tax was collected for the period in which the tax was due, whichever is greater.

State law generally allows us to relieve penalties if the State Board of Equalization determines that the person's failure to timely remit the tax was due to reasonable cause or circumstance beyond their control, and occurred even though the taxpayer exercised ordinary care.

POSTAL REFORM

The Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act, the first major legislative reform of the United States Postal Service since 1970, passed on the final day of the 109th Congress on December 9th.

The passage capped more than a decade of work by major mailers, printers, and newspaper publishers. Among the key provisions in the new law that will help our industry are

- Price caps for Periodicals, First-Class and Standard Mail, to be set by USPS within a cost of living index.
- New Postal Regulatory Commission powers, including a role in setting service standards, which are now only informally-recognized for periodicals.
- Restoration of preferred rates to Outside County mail under 5,000—a preference that was lost in the mid-1980s.
- Within County rates for requester publications.
- Within County rates for wandering routes.
- Shifting the cost of USPS military pensions back to the general federal treasury, which will trim about \$78 billion from USPS costs.

A year of rulemaking and setting up of procedures will now follow. We may not see the effects of the change until 2008. New postal rates set under the old law are expected in May 2007.