

# Chapter 279C

2003 EDITION

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## GENERAL PROVISIONS

**279C.005 Definitions.** ORS 279A.010 (1) contains general definitions applicable throughout this chapter. [2003 c.794 §88]

**Note:** ORS chapter 279C becomes operative March 1, 2005, and applies only to public contracts first advertised, but if not advertised then entered into, on or after March 1, 2005. See sections 336 and 337, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003.

**279C.010 Applicability.** As provided in ORS 279A.020, public contracting under this chapter is subject to ORS chapter 279A, but not ORS chapter 279B. [2003 c.794 §88a]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

## ARCHITECTURAL, ENGINEERING, LAND SURVEYING AND RELATED SERVICES

**279C.100 Definitions for ORS 279C.100 to 279C.125.** As used in ORS 279C.100 to 279C.125:

(1) "Architect" means a person who is registered and holds a valid certificate in the practice of architecture in the State of Oregon, as provided under ORS 671.010 to 671.220, and includes without limitation the terms "architect," "licensed architect" and "registered architect."

(2) "Architectural, engineering and land surveying services" means professional services that are required to be performed by an architect, engineer or land surveyor.

(3) "Engineer" means a person who is registered and holds a valid certificate in the practice of engineering in the State of Oregon, as provided under ORS 672.002 to 672.325, and includes all terms listed in ORS 672.002 (2).

(4) "Land surveyor" means a person who is registered and holds a valid certificate in the practice of land surveying in the State of Oregon, as provided under ORS 672.002 to 672.325, and includes all terms listed in ORS 672.002 (4).

(5) "Personal services" mean the services of a person or persons that are designated by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or a local contract review board as personal services under ORS 279A.055. "Personal services" includes architectural, engineering and land surveying services procured under ORS 279C.105 or 279C.110 and related services procured under ORS 279C.120.

(6) "Related services" means personal services, other than architectural, engineering and land surveying services, that are related to the planning, design, engineering or oversight of public improvement projects or components thereof, including but not limited to landscape architectural services, facilities planning services, energy planning

services, space planning services, environmental impact studies, hazardous substances or hazardous waste or toxic substances testing services, wetland delineation studies, wetland mitigation studies, Native American studies, historical research services, endangered species studies, rare plant studies, biological services, archaeological services, cost estimating services, appraising services, material testing services, mechanical system balancing services, commissioning services, project management services, construction management services and owner's representative services or land-use planning services. [2003 c.794 §89]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.105 Contracts for architectural, engineering, land surveying and related services; procedures.** (1) Except as provided in ORS 279A.140, contracting agencies may enter into contracts for architectural, engineering and land surveying services and related services. The Oregon Department of Administrative Services shall enter into contracts for architectural, engineering and land surveying services and related services on behalf of state contracting agencies that are subject to ORS 279A.140. The provisions of this section do not relieve the contracting agency of the duty to comply with ORS 279A.140, any other law applicable to state contracting agencies, or any applicable city or county charter provisions. Each contracting agency authorized to enter into contracts for architectural, engineering and land surveying services and related services shall adopt procedures for the screening and selection of persons to perform those services under ORS 279C.110 or 279C.120.

(2) The Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or a local contract review board by ordinance, resolution, administrative rule or other regulation may designate certain personal services contracts or classes of personal services contracts as contracts for architectural, engineering and land surveying services or related services. [2003 c.794 §90]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.110 Selection procedure for architects, engineers and land surveyors; compensation; applicability.** (1) A state contracting agency shall select consultants to provide architectural, engineering or land surveying services on the basis of qualifications for the type of professional service required. A state contracting agency may solicit or use pricing policies and proposals or other pricing information to determine consultant compensation only after the agency has selected a candidate pursuant to subsection (3) of this section.

(2) This section applies only if the architectural, engineering or land surveying services contract is issued by a state contracting agency and does not apply to any such contract issued by a local contracting agency unless the following conditions apply:

(a) The local contracting agency receives moneys from the State Highway Fund under ORS 366.762 or 366.800 or a grant or loan from the state that will be used to pay for any portion of the design and construction of the project;

(b) The total amount of any grants, loans or moneys from the State Highway Fund and from the state for the project exceeds 35 percent of the value of the project; and

(c) The value of the project exceeds \$400,000.

(3) Subject to the requirements of subsections (1) and (2) of this section, the procedures that a contracting agency creates for the screening and selection of consultants and the selection of a candidate under this section shall be within the sole discretion of the contracting agency and may be adjusted to accommodate the contracting agency's scope, schedule and budget objectives for a particular project. Adjustments to accommodate a contracting agency's objectives may include provision for the direct appointment of a consultant if the value of the project does not exceed a threshold amount as determined by the contracting agency. Screening and selection procedures may include a consideration of each candidate's:

(a) Specialized experience, capabilities and technical competence that may be demonstrated by the proposed approach and methodology to meet the project requirements;

(b) Resources available to perform the work and the proportion of the candidate staff's time that would be spent on the project, including any specialized services, within the applicable time limits;

(c) Record of past performance, including but not limited to price and cost data from previous projects, quality of work, ability to meet schedules, cost control and contract administration;

(d) Ownership status and employment practices regarding minority, women and emerging small businesses or historically underutilized businesses;

(e) Availability to the project locale;

(f) Familiarity with the project locale; and

(g) Proposed project management techniques.

(4) If the screening and selection procedures created by a contracting agency under

subsection (3) of this section result in the determination by the contracting agency that two or more candidates are equally qualified, the contracting agency may select a candidate through any process adopted by the contracting agency.

(5) The contracting agency and the selected candidate shall mutually discuss and refine the scope of services for the project and shall negotiate conditions, including but not limited to compensation level and performance schedule, based on the scope of services. The compensation level paid must be reasonable and fair to the contracting agency as determined solely by the contracting agency. Authority to negotiate a contract under this section does not supersede any provision of ORS 279A.140 or 279C.520.

(6) If the contracting agency and the selected candidate are unable for any reason to negotiate a contract at a compensation level that is reasonable and fair to the contracting agency, the contracting agency shall, either orally or in writing, formally terminate negotiations with the selected candidate. The contracting agency may then negotiate with another candidate. The negotiation process may continue in this manner through successive candidates until an agreement is reached or the contracting agency terminates the consultant contracting process.

(7) It is the goal of this state to promote a sustainable economy in the rural areas of the state. In order to monitor progress toward this goal, a state contracting agency to which this section applies shall keep a record of the locations for the architectural, engineering and land surveying services contracts and related services contracts to be performed throughout the state, the locations of the selected consultants and the direct expenses on each contract. This record shall include the total number of contracts over a 10-year period for each consultant firm. The record of direct expenses shall include all personnel travel expenses as a separate and identifiable expense on the contract. Upon request, the state contracting agency shall make these records available to the public. [2003 c.794 §91]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**Note:** The amendments to 279C.110 by section 92, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, become operative July 1, 2008, and apply only to public contracts for personal services advertised or solicited on or after July 1, 2008. See section 93, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003. The text that is operative on and after July 1, 2008, is set forth for the user's convenience.

**279C.110.** (1) A state contracting agency shall select consultants to provide architectural, engineering or land surveying services on the basis of qualifications for the type of professional service required. A state contracting agency may solicit or use pricing policies and proposals or other pricing information to determine consultant compensation only after the agency has se-

lected a candidate pursuant to subsection (2) of this section.

(2) Subject to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the procedures that a contracting agency creates for the screening and selection of consultants and the selection of a candidate under this section shall be within the sole discretion of the contracting agency and may be adjusted to accommodate the contracting agency's scope, schedule and budget objectives for a particular project. Adjustments to accommodate a contracting agency's objectives may include provision for the direct appointment of a consultant if the value of the project does not exceed a threshold amount as determined by the contracting agency. Screening and selection procedures may include a consideration of each candidate's:

(a) Specialized experience, capabilities and technical competence that may be demonstrated by the proposed approach and methodology to meet the project requirements;

(b) Resources available to perform the work and the proportion of the candidate staff's time that would be spent on the project, including any specialized services, within the applicable time limits;

(c) Record of past performance, including but not limited to price and cost data from previous projects, quality of work, ability to meet schedules, cost control and contract administration;

(d) Ownership status and employment practices regarding minority, women and emerging small businesses or historically underutilized businesses;

(e) Availability to the project locale;

(f) Familiarity with the project locale; and

(g) Proposed project management techniques.

(3) If the screening and selection procedures created by a contracting agency under subsection (2) of this section result in the determination by the contracting agency that two or more candidates are equally qualified, the contracting agency may select a candidate through any process adopted by the contracting agency.

(4) The contracting agency and the selected candidate shall mutually discuss and refine the scope of services for the project and shall negotiate conditions, including but not limited to compensation level and performance schedule, based on the scope of services. The compensation level paid must be reasonable and fair to the contracting agency as determined solely by the contracting agency. Authority to negotiate a contract under this section does not supersede any provision of ORS 279A.140 or 279C.520.

(5) If the contracting agency and the selected candidate are unable for any reason to negotiate a contract at a compensation level that is reasonable and fair to the contracting agency, the contracting agency shall, either orally or in writing, formally terminate negotiations with the selected candidate. The contracting agency may then negotiate with another candidate. The negotiation process may continue in this manner through successive candidates until an agreement is reached or the contracting agency terminates the consultant contracting process.

(6) It is the goal of this state to promote a sustainable economy in the rural areas of the state. In order to monitor progress toward this goal, a state contracting agency to which this section applies shall keep a record of the locations for the architectural, engineering and land surveying services contracts and related services contracts to be performed throughout the state, the locations of the selected consultants and the direct expenses on each contract. This record shall include the total number of contracts over a 10-year period for each consultant firm. The record of direct expenses shall include all personnel travel expenses as

a separate and identifiable expense on the contract. Upon request, the state contracting agency shall make these records available to the public.

**279C.115 Direct contracts for services of architects, engineers and land surveyors.** (1) As used in this section, "consultant" means an architect, engineer or land surveyor.

(2) A local contracting agency may enter into an architectural, engineering or land surveying services contract directly with a consultant if the project described in the contract consists of work that has been substantially described, planned or otherwise previously studied or rendered in an earlier contract with the consultant that was awarded under rules adopted under ORS 279A.065 and the new contract is a continuation of that project.

(3) A local contracting agency may adopt criteria for determining when this section applies to an architectural, engineering or land surveying services contract. [2003 c.794 §94]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.120 Selection procedure for related services.** (1) A contracting agency may select consultants to perform related services:

(a) In accordance with screening and selection procedures adopted under ORS 279C.105;

(b) On the basis of the qualifications of the consultants for the types of related services required, under the requirements of ORS 279C.110; or

(c) On the basis of price competition, price and performance evaluations, an evaluation of the capabilities of bidders to perform the needed related services or an evaluation of the capabilities of the bidders to perform the needed related services followed by negotiations between the parties on the price for those related services.

(2) Subject to the requirements of subsection (1) of this section, the procedures that a contracting agency adopts for the screening and selection of consultants and the selection of a candidate under this section is within the sole discretion of the contracting agency and may be adjusted to accommodate the contracting agency's scope, schedule and budget objectives for a particular project. Adjustments to accommodate a contracting agency's objectives may include provision for the direct appointment of a consultant if the value of the project does not exceed a threshold amount as determined by the contracting agency. [2003 c.794 §95]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.125 Architectural, engineering and land surveying services selection process for local government public improvements procured through state agency; rules.** (1) The Department of Transportation, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or any other state contracting agency shall adopt rules establishing a two-tiered selection process for contracts with architects, engineers and land surveyors to perform personal services contracts. The selection process shall apply only if:

(a) A public improvement is owned and maintained by a local government; and

(b) The Department of Transportation, the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or another state contracting agency will serve as the lead state contracting agency and will execute personal services contracts with architects, engineers and land surveyors for work on the public improvement project.

(2) The selection process required by subsection (1) of this section must require the lead state contracting agency to select no fewer than the three most qualified consultants when feasible in accordance with ORS 279C.110.

(3) The local government is responsible for the final selection of the consultant from the list of qualified consultants selected by the lead state contracting agency or through an alternative process adopted by the local government.

(4) Nothing in this section applies to the selection process used by a local contracting agency when the contracting agency executes a contract directly with architects, engineers or land surveyors. [2003 c.794 §96]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

## PROCUREMENT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

### (General Policies)

**279C.300 Policy on competition.** It is the policy of the State of Oregon that public improvement contracts awarded under this chapter must be based on competitive bidding, except as otherwise specifically provided in ORS 279C.335 for exceptions and formal exemptions from competitive bidding requirements. [2003 c.794 §97]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.305 Least-cost policy for public improvements; costs estimates in budget process; use of agency forces; record of costs.** (1) It is the policy of the State of Or-

gon that contracting agencies shall make every effort to construct public improvements at the least cost to the contracting agency.

(2) Not less than 30 days prior to adoption of the contracting agency's budget for the subsequent budget period, each contracting agency shall prepare and file with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries a list of every public improvement known to the contracting agency that the contracting agency plans to fund in the budget period, identifying each improvement by name and estimating the total on-site construction costs. The list shall also contain a statement as to whether the contracting agency intends to perform the construction through a private contractor. If the contracting agency intends to perform construction work using the contracting agency's own equipment and personnel on a project estimated to cost more than \$125,000, the contracting agency shall also show that the contracting agency's decision conforms to the policy stated in subsection (1) of this section. The list is a public record and may be revised periodically by the agency.

(3) Before a contracting agency constructs a public improvement with its own equipment or personnel:

(a) If the estimated cost exceeds \$125,000, the contracting agency shall prepare adequate plans and specifications and the estimated unit cost of each classification of work. The estimated cost of the work must include a reasonable allowance for the cost, including investment cost, of any equipment used. As used in this paragraph, "adequate" means sufficient to control the performance of the work and to ensure satisfactory quality of construction by the contracting agency personnel.

(b) The contracting agency shall cause to be kept and preserved a full, true and accurate account of the costs of performing the work, including all engineering and administrative expenses and the cost, including investment costs, of any equipment used. The final account of the costs is a public record.

(4) Subsections (2) and (3) of this section do not apply to a contracting agency when the public improvement is to be used for the distribution or transmission of electric power.

(5) For purposes of this section, resurfacing of highways, roads or streets at a depth of two or more inches and at an estimated cost that exceeds \$125,000 is a public improvement. [2003 c.794 §98]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.310 Limitation on contracting agency constructing public improvement.**

If a contracting agency fails to adopt and apply a cost accounting system that substantially complies with the model cost accounting guidelines developed by the Oregon Department of Administrative Services pursuant to section 3, chapter 869, Oregon Laws 1979, as determined by an accountant qualified to perform audits required by ORS 297.210 and 297.405 to 297.555 (Municipal Audit Law), the contracting agency may not construct a public improvement with the contracting agency's own equipment or personnel if the cost exceeds \$5,000. [2003 c.794 §99]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.315 Waiver of damages for unreasonable delay by contracting agency against public policy.** (1) Any clause in a public improvement contract that purports to waive, release or extinguish the rights of a contractor to damages or an equitable adjustment arising out of unreasonable delay in performing the contract, if the delay is caused by acts or omissions of the contracting agency or persons acting therefor, is against public policy and is void and unenforceable.

(2) Subsection (1) of this section is not intended to render void any contract provision that:

- (a) Requires notice of any delay;
- (b) Provides for arbitration or other procedures for settlement of contract disputes; or
- (c) Provides for reasonable liquidated damages. [2003 c.794 §100]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.320 Contracts for construction other than public improvements.** (1) Contracting agencies shall enter into contracts for minor alteration, ordinary repair or maintenance of public improvements, as well as any other construction contract that is not defined as a public improvement under ORS 279A.010, in accordance with the provisions of ORS chapter 279B. This subsection does not apply to emergency contracts regulated under ORS 279C.335.

(2) Nothing in this section relieves contracting agencies or contractors of any other relevant requirements under this chapter, including payment of prevailing wage rates when applicable.

(3) When construction services are not considered to be a public improvement under this chapter because no funds of a public agency are directly or indirectly used, except for participation that is incidental or related

primarily to project design or inspection, the benefiting public body may nonetheless condition acceptance of the services on receipt of such protections as the public body considers to be in the public interest, including a performance bond, a payment bond and appropriate insurance. [2003 c.794 §101]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**(Competitive Bidding; Contract Specifications; Exceptions; Exemptions)**

**279C.330 "Findings" defined.** As used in ORS 279C.335, 279C.345 and 279C.350, "findings" means the justification for a contracting agency conclusion that includes, but is not limited to, information regarding:

- (1) Operational, budget and financial data;
- (2) Public benefits;
- (3) Value engineering;
- (4) Specialized expertise required;
- (5) Public safety;
- (6) Market conditions;
- (7) Technical complexity; and
- (8) Funding sources. [2003 c.794 §102]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.335 Competitive bidding; exceptions; exemptions.** (1) All public improvement contracts shall be based upon competitive bids except:

(a) Contracts made with qualified non-profit agencies providing employment opportunities for disabled individuals under ORS 279.835 to 279.855.

(b) A public improvement contract exempt under subsection (2) of this section.

(c) A contract for goods or services if the value of the contract is less than \$5,000.

(d) A contract not to exceed \$100,000, or not to exceed \$50,000 in the case of a contract for a highway, bridge or other transportation project, made under procedures for competitive quotes in sections 132 and 133, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003.

(e) Contracts for repair, maintenance, improvement or protection of property obtained by the Director of Veterans' Affairs under ORS 407.135 and 407.145 (1).

(2) Subject to subsection (3)(b) of this section, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, a local contract review board or, for contracts described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), the Director of Transportation may exempt a public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts from the competitive

bidding requirements of subsection (1) of this section upon approval of the following findings submitted by the contracting agency seeking the exemption:

(a) It is unlikely that the exemption will encourage favoritism in the awarding of public improvement contracts or substantially diminish competition for public improvement contracts; and

(b) The awarding of public improvement contracts under the exemption will result in substantial cost savings to the contracting agency or, if the contracts are for public improvements described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), to the contracting agency or the public. In making the finding, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the Director of Transportation or the local contract review board may consider the type, cost and amount of the contract, the number of persons available to bid and such other factors as may be deemed appropriate.

(3) In granting exemptions under subsection (2) of this section, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the Director of Transportation or the local contract review board shall:

(a) When appropriate, direct the use of alternate contracting methods that take account of market realities and modern practices and are consistent with the public policy of encouraging competition.

(b) Require and approve or disapprove written findings by the contracting agency that support the awarding of a particular public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts, without the competitive bidding requirement of subsection (1) of this section. The findings must show that the exemption of a contract or class of contracts complies with the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(4)(a) Before final adoption of the findings required by subsection (2) of this section exempting a public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts from the requirement of competitive bidding, a contracting agency shall hold a public hearing.

(b) Notification of the public hearing shall be published in at least one trade newspaper of general statewide circulation a minimum of 14 days before the hearing.

(c) The notice shall state that the public hearing is for the purpose of taking comments on the contracting agency's draft findings for an exemption from the competitive bidding requirement. At the time of the notice, copies of the draft findings shall be made available to the public. At the option of the contracting agency, the notice may describe the process by which the findings

are finally adopted and may indicate the opportunity for any further public comment.

(d) At the public hearing, the contracting agency shall offer an opportunity for any interested party to appear and present comment.

(e) If a contracting agency is required to act promptly due to circumstances beyond the contracting agency's control that do not constitute an emergency, notification of the public hearing may be published simultaneously with the contracting agency's solicitation of contractors for the alternative public contracting method, as long as responses to the solicitation are due at least five days after the meeting and approval of the findings.

(5) A public improvement contract may be exempted from the requirement of subsection (1) of this section if emergency conditions require prompt execution of the contract. In accordance with rules adopted under ORS 279A.065, a contracting agency may declare that an emergency exists. If an emergency is declared, any contract awarded under this subsection must be awarded within 60 days following declaration of the emergency, unless the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or the local contract review board grants an extension. [2003 c.794 §103]

**Note 1:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**Note 2:** The amendments to 279C.335 by section 104, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, become operative July 1, 2009. See section 105, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003. The text that is operative from July 1, 2009, until July 1, 2012 is set forth for the user's convenience.

**279C.335.** (1) All public improvement contracts shall be based upon competitive bids except:

(a) Contracts made with qualified nonprofit agencies providing employment opportunities for disabled individuals under ORS 279.835 to 279.855.

(b) A public improvement contract exempt under subsection (2) of this section.

(c) A contract for goods or services if the value of the contract is less than \$5,000.

(d) Contracts for repair, maintenance, improvement or protection of property obtained by the Director of Veterans' Affairs under ORS 407.135 and 407.145 (1).

(2) Subject to subsection (3)(b) of this section, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, a local contract review board or, for contracts described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), the Director of Transportation may exempt a public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts from the competitive bidding requirements of subsection (1) of this section upon approval of the following findings submitted by the contracting agency seeking the exemption:

(a) It is unlikely that the exemption will encourage favoritism in the awarding of public improvement contracts or substantially diminish competition for public improvement contracts; and

(b) The awarding of public improvement contracts under the exemption will result in substantial cost savings to the contracting agency or, if the contracts are for public improvements described in ORS 279A.050

(3)(b), to the contracting agency or the public. In making the finding, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the Director of Transportation or the local contract review board may consider the type, cost and amount of the contract, the number of persons available to bid and such other factors as may be deemed appropriate.

(3) In granting exemptions under subsection (2) of this section, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the Director of Transportation or the local contract review board shall:

(a) When appropriate, direct the use of alternate contracting methods that take account of market realities and modern practices and are consistent with the public policy of encouraging competition.

(b) Require and approve or disapprove written findings by the contracting agency that support the awarding of a particular public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts, without the competitive bidding requirement of subsection (1) of this section. The findings must show that the exemption of a contract or class of contracts complies with the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(4)(a) Before final adoption of the findings required by subsection (2) of this section exempting a public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts from the requirement of competitive bidding, a contracting agency shall hold a public hearing.

(b) Notification of the public hearing shall be published in at least one trade newspaper of general statewide circulation a minimum of 14 days before the hearing.

(c) The notice shall state that the public hearing is for the purpose of taking comments on the contracting agency's draft findings for an exemption from the competitive bidding requirement. At the time of the notice, copies of the draft findings shall be made available to the public. At the option of the contracting agency, the notice may describe the process by which the findings are finally adopted and may indicate the opportunity for any further public comment.

(d) At the public hearing, the contracting agency shall offer an opportunity for any interested party to appear and present comment.

(e) If a contracting agency is required to act promptly due to circumstances beyond the contracting agency's control that do not constitute an emergency, notification of the public hearing may be published simultaneously with the contracting agency's solicitation of contractors for the alternative public contracting method, as long as responses to the solicitation are due at least five days after the meeting and approval of the findings.

(5) A public improvement contract may be exempted from the requirement of subsection (1) of this section if emergency conditions require prompt execution of the contract. In accordance with rules adopted under ORS 279A.065, a contracting agency may declare that an emergency exists. If an emergency is declared, any contract awarded under this subsection must be awarded within 60 days following declaration of the emergency, unless the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or the local contract review board grants an extension.

**Note 3:** The amendments to 279C.335 by section 105a, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, become operative July 1, 2012. See section 105b, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003. The text that is operative on and after July 1, 2012, is set forth for the user's convenience.

**279C.335.** (1) All public improvement contracts shall be based upon competitive bids except:

(a) Contracts made with qualified nonprofit agencies providing employment opportunities for disabled individuals under ORS 279.835 to 279.855.

(b) A public improvement contract exempt under subsection (2) of this section.

(c) A contract for goods or services if the value of the contract is less than \$5,000.

(d) Contracts for repair, maintenance, improvement or protection of property obtained by the Director of Veterans' Affairs under ORS 407.135 and 407.145 (1).

(2) Subject to subsection (3)(b) of this section, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or a local contract review board may exempt a public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts from the competitive bidding requirements of subsection (1) of this section upon approval of the following findings submitted by the contracting agency seeking the exemption:

(a) It is unlikely that the exemption will encourage favoritism in the awarding of public improvement contracts or substantially diminish competition for public improvement contracts; and

(b) The awarding of public improvement contracts under the exemption will result in substantial cost savings to the contracting agency. In making the finding, the director or the local contract review board may consider the type, cost and amount of the contract, the number of persons available to bid and such other factors as may be deemed appropriate.

(3) In granting exemptions under subsection (2) of this section, the director or the local contract review board shall:

(a) When appropriate, direct the use of alternate contracting methods that take account of market realities and modern practices and are consistent with the public policy of encouraging competition.

(b) Require and approve or disapprove written findings by the contracting agency that support the awarding of a particular public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts, without the competitive bidding requirement of subsection (1) of this section. The findings must show that the exemption of a contract or class of contracts complies with the requirements of subsection (2) of this section.

(4)(a) Before final adoption of the findings required by subsection (2) of this section exempting a public improvement contract or a class of public improvement contracts from the requirement of competitive bidding, a contracting agency shall hold a public hearing.

(b) Notification of the public hearing shall be published in at least one trade newspaper of general statewide circulation a minimum of 14 days before the hearing.

(c) The notice shall state that the public hearing is for the purpose of taking comments on the contracting agency's draft findings for an exemption from the competitive bidding requirement. At the time of the notice, copies of the draft findings shall be made available to the public. At the option of the contracting agency, the notice may describe the process by which the findings are finally adopted and may indicate the opportunity for any further public comment.

(d) At the public hearing, the contracting agency shall offer an opportunity for any interested party to appear and present comment.

(e) If a contracting agency is required to act promptly due to circumstances beyond the contracting agency's control that do not constitute an emergency, notification of the public hearing may be published simultaneously with the contracting agency's solicitation of contractors for the alternative public contracting method, as long as responses to the solicitation are due at least five days after the meeting and approval of the findings.

(5) A public improvement contract may be exempted from the requirement of subsection (1) of this section if emergency conditions require prompt execution of the

contract. In accordance with rules adopted under ORS 279A.065, a contracting agency may declare that an emergency exists. If an emergency is declared, any contract awarded under this subsection must be awarded within 60 days following declaration of the emergency, unless the director or the local contract review board grants an extension.

**279C.340 Contract negotiations.** If a public improvement contract is competitively bid and all responsive bids from responsible bidders exceed the contracting agency's cost estimate, the contracting agency, in accordance with rules adopted by the contracting agency, may negotiate with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, prior to awarding the contract, in order to solicit value engineering and other options to attempt to bring the contract within the contracting agency's cost estimate. A negotiation with the lowest responsive, responsible bidder under this section may not result in the award of the contract to that bidder if the scope of the project is significantly changed from the original bid proposal. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the records of a bidder used in contract negotiation under this section are not subject to public inspection until after the negotiated contract has been awarded or the negotiation process has been terminated. [2003 c.794 §106]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.345 Specifications for contracts; exemptions.** (1) Specifications for public improvement contracts may not expressly or implicitly require any product by any brand name or mark, nor the product of any particular manufacturer or seller unless the product is exempt under subsection (2) of this section.

(2) The Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or a local contract review board may exempt certain products or classes of products from subsection (1) of this section upon any of the following findings:

(a) It is unlikely that the exemption will encourage favoritism in the awarding of public improvement contracts or substantially diminish competition for public improvement contracts;

(b) The specification of a product by brand name or mark, or the product of a particular manufacturer or seller, would result in substantial cost savings to the contracting agency;

(c) There is only one manufacturer or seller of the product of the quality required; or

(d) Efficient utilization of existing equipment or supplies requires the acquisition of compatible equipment or supplies. [2003 c.794 §107]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.350 Exemption procedure; appeal.**

(1) Exemptions granted by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services under ORS 279C.335 (2) or 279C.345 (2) constitute rulemaking and not contested cases under ORS chapter 183. However, an exemption granted with regard to a specific public improvement contract by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, or an exemption granted by the Director of Transportation with regard to a specific public improvement contract or class of public improvement contracts described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), shall be granted by order. The order shall set forth findings supporting the decision to grant or deny the request for the exemption. The order is reviewable under ORS 183.484 and does not constitute a contested case order. Jurisdiction for review of the order is with the Circuit Court of Marion County. The court may award costs and attorney fees to the prevailing party.

(2) Any person except the contracting agency or anyone representing the contracting agency may bring a petition for a declaratory judgment to test the validity of any rule adopted by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services under ORS 279C.335 or 279C.345 in the manner provided in ORS 183.400.

(3) Any person except the contracting agency or anyone representing the contracting agency may bring an action for writ of review under ORS chapter 34 to test the validity of an exemption granted under ORS 279C.335 or 279C.345 by a local contract review board. [2003 c.794 §108]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**Note:** The amendments to 279C.350 by section 109, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, become operative July 1, 2012. See section 110, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003. The text that is operative on and after July 1, 2012, is set forth for the user's convenience.

**279C.350.** (1) Exemptions granted by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services under ORS 279C.335 (2) or 279C.345 (2) constitute rulemaking and not contested cases under ORS chapter 183. However, an exemption granted with regard to a specific public improvement contract by the director shall be granted by order of the director. The order shall set forth findings supporting the decision of the director to grant or deny the request for the exemption. The order is reviewable under ORS 183.484 and does not constitute a contested case order. Jurisdiction for review of the order is with the Circuit Court of Marion County. The court may award costs and attorney fees to the prevailing party.

(2) Any person except the contracting agency or anyone representing the contracting agency may bring a petition for a declaratory judgment to test the validity of any rule adopted by the director under ORS 279C.335 or 279C.345 in the manner provided in ORS 183.400.

(3) Any person except the contracting agency or anyone representing the contracting agency may bring an action for writ of review under ORS chapter 34 to test the validity of an exemption granted under ORS 279C.335 or 279C.345 by a local contract review board.

**279C.355 Evaluation of public improvement projects not contracted by competitive bidding.** (1) Upon completion of and final payment for any public improvement contract, or class of public improvement contracts described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), in excess of \$100,000 for which the contracting agency did not use the competitive bidding process, the contracting agency shall prepare and deliver to the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the local contract review board or, for a class of public improvement contracts described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), the Director of Transportation an evaluation of the public improvement contract or the class of public improvement contracts.

(2) The evaluation must include but is not limited to the following matters:

(a) The actual project cost as compared with original project estimates;

(b) The amount of any guaranteed maximum price;

(c) The number of project change orders issued by the contracting agency;

(d) A narrative description of successes and failures during the design, engineering and construction of the project; and

(e) An objective assessment of the use of the alternative contracting process as compared to the findings required by ORS 279C.335.

(3) The evaluations required by this section:

(a) Must be made available for public inspection; and

(b) Must be completed within 30 days of the date the contracting agency accepts:

(A) The public improvement project; or

(B) The last public improvement project if the project falls within a class of public improvement contracts described in ORS 279.050 (3)(b). [2003 c.794 §111]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**Note:** The amendments to 279C.355 by section 112, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, become operative July 1, 2012. See section 113, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003. The text that is operative on and after July 1, 2012, is set forth for the user's convenience.

**279C.355.** (1) Upon completion of and final payment for any public improvement contract, or class of public improvement contracts, in excess of \$100,000 for which the contracting agency did not use the competitive bidding process, the contracting agency shall prepare and deliver to the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or the local contract review board an evaluation of the public improvement contract or the class of public improvement contracts.

(2) The evaluation shall include but is not limited to the following matters:

(a) The actual project cost as compared with original project estimates;

(b) The amount of any guaranteed maximum price;

(c) The number of project change orders issued by the contracting agency;

(d) A narrative description of successes and failures during the design, engineering and construction of the project; and

(e) An objective assessment of the use of the alternative contracting process as compared to the findings required by ORS 279C.335.

(3) The evaluations required by this section:

(a) Must be made available for public inspection; and

(b) Must be completed within 30 days of the date the contracting agency accepts:

(A) The public improvement project; or

(B) The last public improvement project if the project falls within a class of public improvement contracts.

### **(Solicitation; Contract Award; Rejection)**

**279C.360 Requirement for public improvement advertisements.** (1) An advertisement for public improvement contracts must be published at least once in at least one newspaper of general circulation in the area where the contract is to be performed and in as many additional issues and publications as the contracting agency may determine. The Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or a local contract review board, by rule or order, may authorize advertisements for public improvement contracts to be published electronically instead of in a newspaper of general circulation if the director or board determines that electronic advertisements are likely to be cost-effective. If the public improvement contract has an estimated cost in excess of \$125,000, the advertisement must be published in at least one trade newspaper of general statewide circulation. The director or board may, by rule or order, require an advertisement to be published more than once or in one or more additional publications.

(2) All advertisements for public improvement contracts must state:

(a) The public improvement project;

(b) The office where the specifications for the project may be reviewed;

(c) The date that prequalification applications must be filed under ORS 279C.430 and the class or classes of work for which bidders must be prequalified if prequalification is a requirement;

(d) The date and time after which bids will not be received, which must be at least five days after the date of the last publication of the advertisement;

(e) The name and title of the person designated for receipt of bids;

(f) The date, time and place that the contracting agency will publicly open the bids; and

(g) If the contract is for a public works subject to ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 or the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a). [2003 c.794 §114]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.365 Requirements for solicitation documents and bids and proposals.** (1) A contracting agency preparing solicitation documents for a public improvement contract shall, at a minimum, include:

(a) The public improvement project;

(b) The office where the specifications for the project may be reviewed;

(c) The date that prequalification applications must be filed under ORS 279C.430 and the class or classes of work for which bidders must be prequalified if prequalification is a requirement;

(d) The date and time after which bids will not be received, which must be at least five days after the date of the last publication of the advertisement;

(e) The name and title of the person designated for receipt of bids;

(f) The date, time and place that the contracting agency will publicly open the bids;

(g) A statement that, if the contract is for a public works subject to ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 or the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a), no bid will be received or considered by the contracting agency unless the bid contains a statement by the bidder that ORS 279C.840 or 40 U.S.C. 276a will be complied with;

(h) A statement that each bid must identify whether the bidder is a resident bidder, as defined in ORS 279A.120;

(i) A statement that the contracting agency may reject any bid not in compliance with all prescribed public contracting procedures and requirements and may reject for good cause all bids upon a finding of the agency that it is in the public interest to do so;

(j) Information addressing whether a contractor or subcontractor must be licensed under ORS 468A.720; and

(k) A statement that a bid for a public improvement contract may not be received or considered by the contracting agency unless the bidder is licensed by the Construction Contractors Board or the State Landscape Contractors Board.

(2) All bids made to the contracting agency under ORS 279C.335 or 279C.400 must be:

(a) In writing;

(b) Filed with the person designated for receipt of bids by the contracting agency; and

(c) Opened publicly by the contracting agency immediately after the deadline for submission of bids.

(3) After having been opened, the bids must be made available for public inspection.

(4) A surety bond, irrevocable letter of credit issued by an insured institution as defined in ORS 706.008, cashier's check or certified check of each bidder shall be attached to all bids as bid security unless the contract for which a bid is submitted has been exempted from this requirement under ORS 279C.390. The security may not exceed 10 percent of the amount bid for the contract. [2003 c.794 §115]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.370 First-tier subcontractor disclosure.** (1)(a) Within two working hours after the date and time of the deadline when bids are due to a contracting agency for a public improvement contract, a bidder shall submit to the contracting agency a disclosure of the first-tier subcontractors that:

(A) Will be furnishing labor or will be furnishing labor and materials in connection with the public improvement contract; and

(B) Will have a contract value that is equal to or greater than five percent of the total project bid or \$15,000, whichever is greater, or \$350,000 regardless of the percentage of the total project bid.

(b) For each contract to which this subsection applies, the contracting agency shall designate a deadline for submission of bids that has a date on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday and a time between 2 p.m. and 5 p.m., except that this paragraph does not apply to public contracts for maintenance or construction of highways, bridges or other transportation facilities.

(c) This subsection applies only to public improvement contracts with an estimated value of more than \$100,000.

(d) This subsection does not apply to public improvement contracts that have been exempted from competitive bidding requirements under ORS 279C.335 (2).

(2) The disclosure of first-tier subcontractors under subsection (1) of this section must include the name of each subcontractor, the category of work that each subcontractor will perform and the dollar value of

each subcontract. The information shall be disclosed in substantially the following form:

FIRST-TIER SUBCONTRACTOR DISCLOSURE FORM

PROJECT NAME: \_\_\_\_\_
BID #: \_\_\_\_\_
BID CLOSING: Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

This form must be submitted at the location specified in the Invitation to Bid on the advertised bid closing date and within two working hours after the advertised bid closing time.

List below the name of each subcontractor that will be furnishing labor or will be furnishing labor and materials and that is required to be disclosed, the category of work that the subcontractor will be performing and the dollar value of the subcontract. Enter "NONE" if there are no subcontractors that need to be disclosed. (ATTACH ADDITIONAL SHEETS IF NEEDED.)

Table with 3 columns: NAME, DOLLAR VALUE, CATEGORY OF WORK. Rows 1-4 with blank lines for entry.

Failure to submit this form by the disclosure deadline will result in a nonresponsive bid. A nonresponsive bid will not be considered for award.

Form submitted by (bidder name): \_\_\_\_\_
Contact name: \_\_\_\_\_
Phone no.: \_\_\_\_\_

(3) A contracting agency shall accept the subcontractor disclosure. The contracting agency shall consider the bid of any contractor that does not submit a subcontractor disclosure to the contracting agency to be a nonresponsive bid and may not award the contract to the contractor. A contracting agency is not required to determine the accuracy or the completeness of the subcontractor disclosure.

(4) After the bids are opened, the subcontractor disclosures must be made available for public inspection.

(5) A contractor may substitute a first-tier subcontractor under the provisions of ORS 279C.585.

(6) A subcontractor may file a complaint under ORS 279C.590 based on the disclosure requirements of subsection (1) of this section. [2003 c.794 §116]

Note: See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

279C.375 Award of contract; bonds. (1) After bids are opened and a determination is made that a public improvement contract is to be awarded, the contracting agency shall award the contract to the lowest responsible bidder.

(2) In determining the lowest responsible bidder, a contracting agency shall:

(a) Check the list created by the Construction Contractors Board under ORS 701.227 for bidders who are not qualified to hold a public improvement contract; and

(b) Determine whether the prospective bidder has met the standards of responsibility. In making the determination, the contracting agency shall consider whether a prospective bidder has:

(A) Available the appropriate financial, material, equipment, facility and personnel resources and expertise, or the ability to obtain the resources and expertise, necessary to indicate the capability of the prospective bidder to meet all contractual responsibilities;

(B) A satisfactory record of performance. The contracting agency shall document the record of performance of a prospective bidder if the contracting agency finds the prospective bidder not to be responsible under this subparagraph;

(C) A satisfactory record of integrity. The contracting agency shall document the record of integrity of a prospective bidder if the contracting agency finds the prospective bidder not to be responsible under this subparagraph;

(D) Qualified legally to contract with the contracting agency; and

(E) Supplied all necessary information in connection with the inquiry concerning responsibility. If a prospective bidder fails to promptly supply information requested by the contracting agency concerning responsibility, the contracting agency shall base the determination of responsibility upon any available information, or may find the prospective bidder not to be responsible.

(3) The successful bidder shall:

(a) Promptly execute a formal contract; and

(b) Execute and deliver to the contracting agency a performance bond and a payment bond as described in ORS 279C.380. [2003 c.794 §117]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.380 Performance bond; payment bond; waiver of bonds in case of emergency.** (1) A successful bidder for a public improvement contract shall promptly execute and deliver to the contracting agency the following bonds:

(a) A performance bond in an amount equal to the full contract price conditioned on the faithful performance of the contract in accordance with the plans, specifications and conditions of the contract. The performance bond must be solely for the protection of the contracting agency that awarded the contract and any public agency or agencies for whose benefit the contract was awarded. If the public improvement contract is with a single person to provide both design and construction of a public improvement, the obligation of the performance bond for the faithful performance of the contract required by this paragraph must also be for the preparation and completion of the design and related services covered under the contract. Notwithstanding when a cause of action, claim or demand accrues or arises, the surety is not liable after final completion of the contract, or longer if provided for in the contract, for damages of any nature, economic or otherwise and including corrective work, attributable to the design aspect of a design-build project, or for the costs of design revisions needed to implement corrective work. A contracting agency may waive the requirement of a performance bond. A contracting agency may permit the successful bidder to submit a cashier's check or certified check in lieu of all or a portion of the required performance bond.

(b) A payment bond in an amount equal to the full contract price, solely for the protection of claimants under ORS 279C.600.

(2) If the public improvement contract is with a single person to provide construction manager and general contractor services, in which a guaranteed maximum price may be established by an amendment authorizing construction period services following pre-construction period services, the contractor shall provide the bonds required by subsection (1) of this section upon execution of an amendment establishing the guaranteed maximum price. The contracting agency shall also require the contractor to provide bonds equal to the value of construction services authorized by any early work amendment in advance of the guaranteed maximum price amendment. Such bonds must be provided before construction starts.

(3) Each performance bond and each payment bond must be executed solely by a surety company or companies holding a cer-

tificate of authority to transact surety business in this state. The bonds may not constitute the surety obligation of an individual or individuals. The performance and payment bonds must be payable to the contracting agency or to the public agency or agencies for whose benefit the contract was awarded, as specified in the solicitation documents, and shall be in a form approved by the contracting agency.

(4) In cases of emergency, or when the interest or property of the contracting agency or the public agency or agencies for whose benefit the contract was awarded probably would suffer material injury by delay or other cause, the requirement of furnishing a good and sufficient performance bond and a good and sufficient payment bond for the faithful performance of any public improvement contract may be excused, if a declaration of such emergency is made in accordance with rules adopted under ORS 279A.065. [2003 c.794 §118]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.385 Return or retention of bid security.** Upon the execution of a public improvement contract and delivery of a good and sufficient performance bond and a good and sufficient payment bond by the successful bidder, the bid security of the successful bidder shall be returned to the bidder. A bidder who is awarded a contract and who fails promptly and properly to execute the contract and to deliver the performance bond and the payment bond shall forfeit the bid security that accompanied the successful bid. The bid security shall be taken and considered as liquidated damages and not as a penalty for failure of the bidder to execute the contract and bonds. The bid security of unsuccessful bidders may be returned to them when the bids have been opened and the contract has been awarded, and may not be retained by the contracting agency after the contract has been duly signed. [2003 c.794 §119]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.390 Exemption of contracts from bid security and bonds.** (1) Subject to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, a local contract review board or, for contracts described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), the Director of Transportation may exempt certain contracts or classes of contracts from all or a portion of the requirement for bid security and from all or a portion of the requirement that good and sufficient bonds be furnished to ensure performance of the contract and payment of obligations incurred in the performance.

(2) The contracting agency may require bid security and a good and sufficient performance bond, a good and sufficient payment bond, or any combination of such bonds, even though the public improvement contract is of a class exempted by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the local contract review board or, for contracts described in ORS 279A.050 (3)(b), the Director of Transportation.

(3) The Director of Transportation may:

(a) Exempt contracts or classes of contracts financed from the proceeds of bonds issued under ORS 367.620 (3)(a) from the requirement for bid security and from the requirement that a good and sufficient bond be furnished to ensure performance of the contract; or

(b) Reduce the amount of the required performance bond for contracts or classes of contracts financed from the proceeds of the bonds issued under ORS 367.620 (3)(a) to less than 100 percent of the contract price.

(4) Any recoverable damages that exceed the amount of the performance bond required under subsection (3) of this section shall be the sole responsibility of the Department of Transportation. [2003 c.794 §120; 2003 c.794 §120a]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.395 Rejection of bids.** A contracting agency may reject any bid not in compliance with all prescribed public bidding procedures and requirements, and may, for good cause, reject all bids upon a finding of the contracting agency it is in the public interest to do so. In any case where competitive bids are required and all bids are rejected, and the proposed project is not abandoned, new bids may be called for as in the first instance. [2003 c.794 §121]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

### (Competitive Proposals)

**279C.400 Competitive proposals; procedure.** (1) When authorized or required by an exemption granted under ORS 279C.335, a contracting agency may award a public improvement contract by competitive proposals. A contract awarded under this section may be amended only in accordance with rules adopted under ORS 279A.065.

(2) Except as provided in ORS 279C.330 to 279C.355, 279C.360 to 279C.390, 279C.395 and 279C.430 to 279C.450, competitive proposals shall be subject to the following requirements of competitive bidding:

(a) Advertisement under ORS 279C.360;

(b) Requirements for solicitation documents under ORS 279C.365;

(c) Disqualification due to a Construction Contractors Board listing as described in ORS 279C.375 (2)(a);

(d) Contract execution and bonding requirements under ORS 279C.375 and 279C.380;

(e) Determination of responsibility under ORS 279C.375 (2)(b);

(f) Rejection of bids under ORS 279C.395; and

(g) Disqualification and prequalification under ORS 279C.430, 279C.435 and 279C.440.

(3) For the purposes of applying the requirements listed in subsection (2) of this section to competitive proposals, when used in the sections listed in subsection (2) of this section, "bids" includes proposals, and "bid documents" and "invitation to bid" include requests for proposals.

(4) Competitive proposals are not subject to the following requirements of competitive bidding:

(a) First-tier subcontractor disclosure under ORS 279C.370; and

(b) Reciprocal preference under ORS 279A.120.

(5) When award of a public improvement contract advertised by the issuance of a request for proposals may be made without negotiation, the contracting agency may require proposal security that serves the same function with respect to proposals as bid security serves with respect to bids under ORS 279C.365 (4), 279C.380 and 279C.385, as follows:

(a) The contracting agency may require proposal security in a form and amount as may be determined to be reasonably necessary or prudent to protect the interests of the contracting agency.

(b) The contracting agency shall retain the proposal security if a proposer who is awarded a contract fails to promptly and properly execute the contract and provide any required bonds or insurance.

(c) The contracting agency shall return the proposal security to all proposers upon the execution of the contract, or earlier in the selection process.

(6) In all other respects, and subject to rules adopted under ORS 279A.065, references in this chapter to invitations to bid, bids or bidders shall, to the extent practicable within the proposal process, be deemed equally applicable to requests for proposals, proposals or proposers. However, notwithstanding ORS 279C.375 (1), a contracting agency may not be required to award a con-

tract advertised under the competitive proposal process based on price, but may award the contract in accordance with ORS 279C.410 (8). [2003 c.794 §129]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.405 Requirements for requests for proposals.** In addition to the general requirements of ORS 279C.365, a contracting agency preparing a request for proposals shall include:

(1) All required contractual terms and conditions. The request for proposals also may:

(a) Identify those contractual terms and conditions the contracting agency reserves, in the request for proposals, for negotiation with proposers;

(b) Request that proposers propose contractual terms and conditions that relate to subject matter reasonably identified in the request for proposals; and

(c) Contain or incorporate the form and content of the contract that the contracting agency will accept, or suggested contract terms and conditions that nevertheless may be the subject of negotiations with proposers.

(2) The method of contractor selection, which may include but is not limited to award without negotiation, negotiation with the highest ranked proposer, competitive negotiations, multiple-tiered competition designed either to identify a class of proposers that fall within a competitive range or to otherwise eliminate from consideration a class of lower ranked proposers, or any combination of methods, as authorized or prescribed by rules adopted under ORS 279A.065.

(3) All evaluation factors that will be considered by the contracting agency when evaluating the proposals, including the relative importance of price and any other evaluation factors. [2003 c.794 §130]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.410 Receipt of proposals; evaluation and award.** (1) Notwithstanding the public records law, ORS 192.410 to 192.505:

(a) Proposals may be opened so as to avoid disclosure of contents to competing proposers during, when applicable, the process of negotiation.

(b) Proposals are not required to be open for public inspection until after the notice of intent to award a contract is issued.

(2) For each request for proposals, the contracting agency shall prepare a list of proposals.

(3) Notwithstanding any requirement to make proposals open to public inspection af-

ter the contracting agency's issuance of notice of intent to award a contract, a contracting agency may withhold from disclosure to the public trade secrets, as defined in ORS 192.501, and information submitted to a public body in confidence, as described in ORS 192.502, that are contained in a proposal. The fact that proposals are opened at a public meeting as defined in ORS 192.610 does not make their contents subject to disclosure, regardless of whether the public body opening the proposals fails to give notice of or provide for an executive session for the purpose of opening proposals. If a request for proposals is canceled after proposals are received, the contracting agency may return a proposal to the proposer that made the proposal. The contracting agency shall keep a list of returned proposals in the file for the solicitation.

(4) As provided in the request for proposals, a contracting agency may conduct discussions with proposers who submit proposals the agency has determined to be closely competitive or to have a reasonable chance of being selected for award. The discussions may be conducted for the purpose of clarification to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, the solicitation requirements. The contracting agency shall accord proposers fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals. Revisions of proposals may be permitted after the submission of proposals and before award for the purpose of obtaining best and final offers. In conducting discussions, the contracting agency may not disclose information derived from proposals submitted by competing proposers.

(5) When provided for in the request for proposals, the contracting agency may employ methods of contractor selection including but not limited to award based solely on the ranking of proposals, negotiation with the highest ranked proposer, competitive negotiations, multiple-tiered competition designed to identify a class of proposers that fall within a competitive range or to otherwise eliminate from consideration a class of lower ranked proposers, or any combination of methods, as authorized or prescribed by rules adopted under ORS 279A.065. When applicable, in any instance in which the contracting agency determines that impasse has been reached in negotiations with a highest ranked proposer, the contracting agency may terminate negotiations with that proposer and commence negotiations with the next highest ranked proposer.

(6) The cancellation of requests for proposals and the rejection of proposals shall be in accordance with ORS 279C.395.

(7) At least seven days before the award of a public contract, unless the contracting agency determines that seven days is impractical under rules adopted under ORS 279A.065, the contracting agency shall issue to each proposer or post, electronically or otherwise, a notice of intent to award.

(8) If a public contract is awarded, the contracting agency shall award a public contract to the responsible proposer whose proposal is determined in writing to be the most advantageous to the contracting agency based on the evaluation factors set forth in the request for proposals and, when applicable, the outcome of any negotiations authorized by the request for proposals. Other factors may not be used in the evaluation.

(9) The contracting agency may issue a request for information, a request for interest, a request for qualifications or other preliminary documents to obtain information useful in the preparation or distribution of a request for proposals. [2003 c.794 §131]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

#### **(Temporary provisions relating to competitive quotes)**

**Note:** Sections 132, 133 and 332a, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, provide:

**Sec. 132. Competitive quotes for intermediate procurements.** (1) A public improvement contract estimated by the contracting agency not to exceed \$100,000, or not to exceed \$50,000 in the case of contracts for highways, bridges and other transportation projects, may be awarded in accordance with intermediate procurement procedures for competitive quotes established by rules adopted under section 10 of this 2003 Act [279A.065]. A contract awarded under this section may be amended to exceed the thresholds set forth in this subsection only in accordance with rules adopted under section 10 of this 2003 Act.

(2) A procurement may not be artificially divided or fragmented so as to constitute an intermediate procurement under this section or to circumvent competitive bidding requirements under sections 88 to 179 of this 2003 Act [ORS chapter 279C].

(3) Intermediate procurements under this section need not be made through competitive bidding. However, nothing in this section may be construed as prohibiting a contracting agency from conducting a procurement that does not exceed the thresholds in subsection (1) of this section under competitive bidding procedures. [2003 c.794 §132]

**Sec. 133. Requirements for competitive quotes.** (1) Rules adopted under section 10 of this 2003 Act [279A.065] to govern competitive quotes shall require the contracting agency to seek at least three informally solicited competitive price quotes from prospective contractors. The contracting agency shall keep a written record of the sources and amounts of the quotes received. If three quotes are not reasonably available, fewer will suffice, but in that event the contracting agency shall make a written record of the effort made to obtain the quotes.

(2) If a contract is to be awarded by competitive quotes, the contracting agency shall award the contract to the prospective contractor whose quote will best serve the interests of the contracting agency, taking

into account price as well as any other applicable factors such as, but not limited to, experience, specific expertise, availability, project understanding, contractor capacity and responsibility. If an award is not made to the prospective contractor offering the lowest price quote, the contracting agency shall make a written record of the basis for award. [2003 c.794 §133]

**Sec. 332a.** Sections 132 and 133 of this 2003 Act are repealed on June 30, 2009. [2003 c.794 §332a]

**Note:** Sections 132 and 133, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003, become operative March 1, 2005, and apply only to public contracts first advertised, but if not advertised then entered into, on or after March 1, 2005. See sections 336 and 337, chapter 794, Oregon Laws 2003.

#### **(Prequalification and Disqualification)**

##### **279C.430 Prequalification of bidders.**

(1) A contracting agency may adopt a rule, resolution, ordinance or other regulation requiring mandatory prequalification for all persons desiring to bid for public improvement contracts that are to be let by the agency. The rule, resolution, ordinance or other regulation authorized by this section must include the time for submitting prequalification applications and a general description of the type and nature of the contracts that may be let. The prequalification application must be in writing on a standard form prescribed under the authority of ORS 279A.050.

(2) When a contracting agency permits or requires prequalification of bidders, a person who wishes to prequalify shall submit a prequalification application to the contracting agency on a standard form prescribed under subsection (1) of this section. Within 30 days after receipt of a prequalification application, the contracting agency shall investigate the applicant as necessary to determine if the applicant is qualified. The determination shall be made in less than 30 days, if practicable, if the applicant requests an early decision to allow the applicant as much time as possible to prepare a bid on a contract that has been advertised. In making its determination, the contracting agency shall consider only the applicable standards of responsibility listed in ORS 279C.375 (2)(b). The agency shall promptly notify the applicant whether or not the applicant is qualified.

(3) If the contracting agency finds that the applicant is qualified, the notice must state the nature and type of contracts that the person is qualified to bid on and the period of time for which the qualification is valid under the contracting agency's rule, resolution, ordinance or other regulation. If the contracting agency finds the applicant is not qualified as to any contracts covered by the rule, resolution, ordinance or other regulation, the notice must specify the reasons found under ORS 279C.375 (2)(b) for not prequalifying the applicant and inform the ap-

plicant of the right to a hearing under ORS 279C.445 and 279C.450.

(4) If a contracting agency has reasonable cause to believe that there has been a substantial change in the conditions of a prequalified person and that the person is no longer qualified or is less qualified, the agency may revoke or may revise and reissue the prequalification after reasonable notice to the prequalified person. The notice shall state the reasons found under ORS 279C.375 (2)(b) for revocation or revision of the prequalification of the person and inform the person of the right to a hearing under ORS 279C.445 and 279C.450. A revocation or revision does not apply to any public improvement contract for which publication of an advertisement, in accordance with ORS 279C.360, commenced before the date the notice of revocation or revision was received by the prequalified person. [2003 c.794 §123]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.435 Effect of prequalification by Department of Transportation or Oregon Department of Administrative Services.** If a person is prequalified with the Department of Transportation or with the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, the person is rebuttably presumed qualified with any other contracting agency for the same kind of work. When qualifying for the same kind of work with another contracting agency, the person may submit proof of the prequalification in lieu of a prequalification application as required by ORS 279C.430. [2003 c.794 §128]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.440 Disqualification from consideration for award of contracts.** (1)(a) A contracting agency may disqualify a person from consideration for award of the contracting agency's contracts for the reasons listed in subsection (2) of this section after providing the person with notice and a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

(b) In lieu of the disqualification process described in paragraph (a) of this subsection, a contracting agency contracting for a public improvement may petition the Construction Contractors Board to disqualify a person from consideration for award of the contracting agency's public improvement contracts for the reasons listed in subsection (2) of this section. The Construction Contractors Board shall provide the person with notice and a reasonable opportunity to be heard.

(c) A contracting agency or the Construction Contractors Board may not disqualify a person under this section for a period of more than three years.

(2) A person may be disqualified from consideration for award of a contracting agency's contracts for any of the following reasons:

(a) The person has been convicted of a criminal offense as an incident in obtaining or attempting to obtain a public or private contract or subcontract, or in the performance of such contract or subcontract.

(b) The person has been convicted under state or federal statutes of embezzlement, theft, forgery, bribery, falsification or destruction of records, receiving stolen property or any other offense indicating a lack of business integrity or business honesty that currently, seriously and directly affects the person's responsibility as a contractor.

(c) The person has been convicted under state or federal antitrust statutes.

(d) The person has committed a violation of a contract provision that is regarded by the contracting agency or the Construction Contractors Board to be so serious as to justify disqualification. A violation may include but is not limited to a failure to perform the terms of a contract or an unsatisfactory performance in accordance with the terms of the contract. However, a failure to perform or an unsatisfactory performance caused by acts beyond the control of the contractor may not be considered to be a basis for disqualification.

(e) The person does not carry workers' compensation or unemployment insurance as required by statute.

(3) A contracting agency or the Construction Contractors Board shall issue a written decision to disqualify a person under this section. The decision shall:

(a) State the reasons for the action taken; and

(b) Inform the disqualified person of the appeal right of the person under:

(A) ORS 279C.445 and 279C.450 if the decision to disqualify was issued by a contracting agency; or

(B) ORS chapter 183 if the decision to disqualify was issued by the Construction Contractors Board.

(4) A copy of the decision issued under subsection (3) of this section must be mailed or otherwise furnished immediately to the disqualified person. [2003 c.794 §122]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.445 Appeal of disqualification.** Any person who wishes to appeal disqualification shall, within three business days after receipt of notice of disqualification, notify the contracting agency that the person ap-

peals the disqualification. Immediately upon receipt of the notice of appeal:

(1) A state contracting agency shall notify the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

(2) All contracting agencies other than state contracting agencies shall notify the appropriate local contract review board. [2003 c.794 §124]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.450 Appeal procedure for prequalification and disqualification decisions; hearing; costs; judicial review.** (1)

The procedure for appeal from a disqualification or denial, revocation or revision of a prequalification by a contracting agency shall be in accordance with this section and is not subject to ORS chapter 183 except when specifically provided by this section.

(2) Promptly upon receipt of notice of appeal from a contracting agency as provided for by ORS 279C.445, the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services or the local contract review board shall notify the person appealing and the contracting agency of the time and place of the hearing. The director or board shall conduct the hearing and decide the appeal within 30 days after receiving the notification from the contracting agency. The director or board shall set forth in writing the reasons for the decision.

(3) In the hearing the director or board shall consider de novo the notice of disqualification or denial, revocation or revision of a prequalification, the reasons listed in ORS 279C.440 (2) on which the contracting agency based the disqualification or the standards of responsibility listed in ORS 279C.375 (2)(b) on which the contracting agency based the denial, revocation or revision of the prequalification and any evidence provided by the parties. In all other respects, a hearing before the director shall be conducted in the same manner as a contested case under ORS 183.415 (3) to (6) and (9), 183.425, 183.440, 183.450 and 183.452.

(4) The director may allocate the director's cost for the hearing between the person appealing and the contracting agency whose disqualification or prequalification decision is being appealed. The allocation shall be based upon facts found by the director and stated in the final order that, in the director's opinion, warrant such allocation of the costs. If the final order does not allocate the director's costs for the hearing, the costs shall be paid as follows:

(a) If the decision to disqualify or deny, revoke or revise a prequalification of a person is upheld, the director's costs shall be

paid by the person appealing the disqualification or prequalification decision.

(b) If the decision to disqualify or deny, revoke or revise a prequalification of a person as a bidder is reversed by the director, the director's costs shall be paid by the contracting agency whose disqualification or prequalification decision is the subject of the appeal.

(5) The decision of the director or board may be reviewed only upon a petition, filed within 15 days after the date of the decision, in the circuit court of the county in which the director or board has its principal office. The circuit court shall reverse or modify the decision only if it finds:

(a) The decision was obtained through corruption, fraud or undue means.

(b) There was evident partiality or corruption on the part of the director or board or any of its members.

(c) There was an evident material miscalculation of figures or an evident material mistake in the description of any person, thing or property referred to in the decision.

(6) The procedure provided in this section is the exclusive means of judicial review of the decision of the director or board. The judicial review provisions of ORS 183.480 and writs of review and mandamus as provided in ORS chapter 34, and other legal, declaratory and injunctive remedies, are not available.

(7) The circuit court may, in its discretion, stay the letting of the contract that is the subject of the petition in the same manner as a suit in equity. When the court determines that there has been an improper disqualification or denial, revocation or revision of a prequalification and the contract has been let, the court may proceed to take evidence to determine the damages, if any, suffered by the petitioner and award such damages as the court may find as a judgment against the director or board. The court may award costs and attorney fees to the prevailing party. [2003 c.794 §125]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**(Remedies)**

**279C.460 Suit by or on behalf of adversely affected bidder or proposer; exception for personal services contract.** (1)

Any bidder or proposer adversely affected or any trade association of construction contractors acting on behalf of a member of the association to protect interests common to construction contractor members may commence a suit in the circuit court for the county where the principal offices of a contracting agency are located, for the purpose of requiring compliance with, or prevention

of violations of, ORS 279C.300 to 279C.470 or to determine the applicability of ORS 279C.300 to 279C.470 to matters or decisions of the contracting agency.

(2) The court may order such equitable relief as the court considers appropriate in the circumstances. In addition to or in lieu of any equitable relief, the court may award an aggrieved bidder or proposer any damages suffered by the bidder or proposer as a result of violations of ORS 279C.300 to 279C.470 for the reasonable cost of preparing and submitting a bid or proposal. A decision of the contracting agency may not be voided if other equitable relief is available.

(3) If the contracting agency is successful in defending the contracting agency's actions against claims of violation or potential violation of ORS 279C.300 to 279C.470, the court may award to the aggrieved contracting agency any damages suffered as a result of the suit.

(4) The court may order payment of reasonable attorney fees and costs on trial and on appeal to a successful party in a suit brought under this section.

(5) This section does not apply to personal services contracts under ORS 279C.100 to 279C.125. [2003 c.794 §134]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.465 Action against successful bidder; amount of damages; when action to be commenced; defenses.** (1) Any person that loses a competitive bid or proposal for a contract involving the construction, repair, remodeling, alteration, conversion, modernization, improvement, rehabilitation, replacement or renovation of a building or structure may bring an action for damages against another person who is awarded the contract for which the bid or proposal was made if the person making the losing bid or proposal can establish that the other person knowingly violated ORS 279C.840, 656.017, 657.505 or 701.055 while performing the work under the contract, or knowingly failed to pay to the Department of Revenue all sums withheld from employees under ORS 316.167.

(2) A person bringing an action under this section must establish a violation of ORS 279C.840, 316.167, 656.017, 657.505 or 701.055 by a preponderance of the evidence.

(3) Upon establishing that the violation occurred, the person shall recover, as liquidated damages, 10 percent of the total amount of the contract or \$5,000, whichever is greater.

(4) In any action under this section, the prevailing party is entitled to an award of reasonable attorney fees.

(5) An action under this section must be commenced within two years of the substantial completion of the construction, repair, remodeling, alteration, conversion, modernization, improvement, rehabilitation, replacement or renovation. For the purposes of this subsection, "substantial completion" has the meaning given that term in ORS 12.135.

(6) A person may not recover any amounts under this section if the defendant in the action establishes by a preponderance of the evidence that the plaintiff:

(a) Was in violation of ORS 701.055 at the time of making the bid or proposal on the contract;

(b) Was in violation of ORS 316.167, 656.017 or 657.505 with respect to any employees of the plaintiff as of the time of making the bid or proposal on the contract; or

(c) Was in violation of ORS 279C.840 with respect to any contract performed by the plaintiff within one year before making the bid or proposal on the contract at issue in the action. [2003 c.794 §135]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.470 Compensation for contractor on contract declared void by court; exceptions; applicability.** (1) If a court determines that a public improvement contract is void because the contracting agency letting the contract failed to comply with any statutory or regulatory competitive bidding or other procurement requirements, and the contractor entered into the contract without intentionally violating the laws regulating public improvement contracts, then, unless the court determines that substantial injustice would result, the contractor is entitled to reimbursement for work performed under the contract as follows:

(a) If the work under the public improvement contract is substantially complete, the contracting agency shall ratify the contract.

(b) If the work under the public improvement contract is not substantially complete, the contracting agency shall ratify the contract and the contract shall be deemed terminated. Upon termination, the contractor shall be paid in accordance with ORS 279C.660, unless the court determines that payment under ORS 279C.660 would be a substantial injustice to the contracting agency or the contractor, in which case the contractor shall be paid as the court deems equitable.

(c) For the purposes of this section, a ratified contract shall be deemed valid, binding and legally enforceable, and the contractor's payment and performance bonds shall remain in full force and effect.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if a court determines that a public improvement contract is void as a result of fraudulent or criminal acts or omissions of the contractor or of both the contracting agency letting the contract and the contractor, the contractor is not entitled to reimbursement for work performed under the contract.

(3) This section does not apply to a public improvement contract if:

(a) The contracting agency's employee that awarded the public improvement contract did not have the authority to do so under law, ordinance, charter, contract or agency rule; or

(b) Payment is otherwise prohibited by Oregon law.

(4) The contractor and all subcontractors under a public improvement contract are prohibited from asserting that the public improvement contract is void for any reason described in this section. [2003 c.794 §136]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

## CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS GENERALLY

### (Required Contract Conditions)

**279C.500 "Person" defined.** As used in ORS 279C.500 to 279C.530, unless the context otherwise requires, "person" includes the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation and the Department of Revenue. [2003 c.794 §137]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.505 Conditions concerning payment, contributions, liens, withholding, drug testing.** (1) Every public contract shall contain a condition that the contractor shall:

(a) Make payment promptly, as due, to all persons supplying to the contractor labor or material for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

(b) Pay all contributions or amounts due the Industrial Accident Fund from the contractor or subcontractor incurred in the performance of the contract.

(c) Not permit any lien or claim to be filed or prosecuted against the state or a county, school district, municipality, municipal corporation or subdivision thereof, on account of any labor or material furnished.

(d) Pay to the Department of Revenue all sums withheld from employees under ORS 316.167.

(2) In addition to the conditions specified in subsection (1) of this section, every public improvement contract shall contain a condition that the contractor shall demonstrate

that an employee drug testing program is in place. [2003 c.794 §138]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.510 Demolition contracts to require material salvage; lawn and landscape maintenance contracts to require composting or mulching.** (1) Every public improvement contract for demolition shall contain a condition requiring the contractor to salvage or recycle construction and demolition debris, if feasible and cost-effective.

(2) Every public improvement contract for lawn and landscape maintenance shall contain a condition requiring the contractor to compost or mulch yard waste material at an approved site, if feasible and cost-effective. [2003 c.794 §139]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.515 Conditions concerning payment of claims by public officers, payment to persons furnishing labor or materials and complaints.** (1) Every public contract shall contain a clause or condition that, if the contractor fails, neglects or refuses to make prompt payment of any claim for labor or services furnished to the contractor or a subcontractor by any person in connection with the public contract as the claim becomes due, the proper officer or officers representing the state or a county, school district, municipality, municipal corporation or subdivision thereof, as the case may be, may pay such claim to the person furnishing the labor or services and charge the amount of the payment against funds due or to become due the contractor by reason of the contract.

(2) Every public improvement contract shall contain a clause or condition that, if the contractor or a first-tier subcontractor fails, neglects or refuses to make payment to a person furnishing labor or materials in connection with the public improvement contract within 30 days after receipt of payment from the contracting agency or a contractor, the contractor or first-tier subcontractor shall owe the person the amount due plus interest charges commencing at the end of the 10-day period that payment is due under ORS 279C.580 (4) and ending upon final payment, unless payment is subject to a good faith dispute as defined in ORS 279C.580. The rate of interest charged to the contractor or first-tier subcontractor on the amount due shall equal three times the discount rate on 90-day commercial paper in effect at the Federal Reserve Bank in the Federal Reserve district that includes Oregon on the date that is 30 days after the date when payment was received from the contracting agency or from

the contractor, but the rate of interest may not exceed 30 percent. The amount of interest may not be waived.

(3) Every public improvement contract and every contract related to the public improvement contract shall contain a clause or condition that, if the contractor or a subcontractor fails, neglects or refuses to make payment to a person furnishing labor or materials in connection with the public improvement contract, the person may file a complaint with the Construction Contractors Board, unless payment is subject to a good faith dispute as defined in ORS 279C.580.

(4) The payment of a claim in the manner authorized in this section does not relieve the contractor or the contractor's surety from obligation with respect to any unpaid claims. [2003 c.794 §140]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.520 Condition concerning hours of labor.** (1) Every public contract subject to this chapter must contain a condition that a person may not be employed for more than 10 hours in any one day, or 40 hours in any one week, except in cases of necessity, emergency or when the public policy absolutely requires it, and in such cases, except in cases of contracts for personal services designated under ORS 279A.055, the employee shall be paid at least time and a half pay:

(a)(A) For all overtime in excess of eight hours in any one day or 40 hours in any one week when the work week is five consecutive days, Monday through Friday; or

(B) For all overtime in excess of 10 hours in any one day or 40 hours in any one week when the work week is four consecutive days, Monday through Friday; and

(b) For all work performed on Saturday and on any legal holiday specified in ORS 279C.540.

(2) An employer must give notice in writing to employees who work on a public contract, either at the time of hire or before commencement of work on the contract, or by posting a notice in a location frequented by employees, of the number of hours per day and days per week that the employees may be required to work.

(3) In the case of contracts for personal services as described in ORS 279A.055, the contract shall contain a provision that the employee shall be paid at least time and a half for all overtime worked in excess of 40 hours in any one week, except for individuals under personal services contracts who are excluded under ORS 653.010 to 653.261 or under 29 U.S.C. 201 to 209 from receiving overtime.

(4) In the case of a contract for services at a county fair or for other events authorized by a county fair board, the contract must contain a provision that employees must be paid at least time and a half for work in excess of 10 hours in any one day or 40 hours in any one week. An employer shall give notice in writing to employees who work on such a contract, either at the time of hire or before commencement of work on the contract, or by posting a notice in a location frequented by employees, of the number of hours per day and days per week that employees may be required to work.

(5)(a) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, contracts for services must contain a provision that requires that persons employed under the contracts shall receive at least time and a half pay for work performed on the legal holidays specified in a collective bargaining agreement or in ORS 279C.540 (1)(b)(B) to (G) and for all time worked in excess of 10 hours in any one day or in excess of 40 hours in any one week, whichever is greater.

(b) An employer shall give notice in writing to employees who work on a contract for services, either at the time of hire or before commencement of work on the contract, or by posting a notice in a location frequented by employees, of the number of hours per day and days per week that the employees may be required to work. [2003 c.794 §141]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.525 Provisions concerning environmental and natural resources laws; remedies.** (1) Solicitation documents for a public improvement contract shall make specific reference to federal, state and local agencies that have enacted ordinances, rules or regulations dealing with the prevention of environmental pollution and the preservation of natural resources that affect the performance of the contract. If the successful bidder awarded the project is delayed or must undertake additional work by reason of existing ordinances, rules or regulations of agencies not cited in the public improvement contract or due to the enactment of new or the amendment of existing statutes, ordinances, rules or regulations relating to the prevention of environmental pollution and the preservation of natural resources occurring after the submission of the successful bid, the contracting agency may:

(a) Terminate the contract;

(b) Complete the work itself;

(c) Use nonagency forces already under contract with the contracting agency;

(d) Require that the underlying property owner be responsible for cleanup;

(e) Solicit bids for a new contractor to provide the necessary services under the competitive bid requirements of this chapter; or

(f) Issue the contractor a change order setting forth the additional work that must be undertaken.

(2) In addition to the obligation imposed under subsection (1) of this section to refer to federal, state and local agencies with ordinances, rules or regulations dealing with the prevention of environmental pollution and the preservation of natural resources, a solicitation document must also make specific reference to known conditions at the construction site that may require the successful bidder to comply with the ordinances, rules or regulations identified under subsection (1) of this section.

(3) If the successful bidder encounters a condition not referred to in the solicitation documents, not caused by the successful bidder and not discoverable by a reasonable prebid visual site inspection, and the condition requires compliance with the ordinances, rules or regulations referred to under subsection (1) of this section, the successful bidder shall immediately give notice of the condition to the contracting agency.

(4) Except in the case of an emergency and except as may otherwise be required by any environmental or natural resource ordinance, rule or regulation, the successful bidder may not commence work nor incur any additional job site costs in regard to the condition encountered and described in subsection (3) of this section without written direction from the contracting agency.

(5) Upon request by the contracting agency, the successful bidder shall estimate the emergency or regulatory compliance costs as well as the anticipated delay and costs resulting from the encountered condition. This cost estimate shall be promptly delivered to the contracting agency for resolution.

(6) Within a reasonable period of time following delivery of an estimate under subsection (5) of this section, the contracting agency may:

(a) Terminate the contract;

(b) Complete the work itself;

(c) Use nonagency forces already under contract with the contracting agency;

(d) Require that the underlying property owner be responsible for cleanup;

(e) Solicit bids for a new contractor to provide the necessary services under the

competitive bid requirements of this chapter; or

(f) Issue the contractor a change order setting forth the additional work that must be undertaken.

(7)(a) If the contracting agency chooses to terminate the contract under subsection (1)(a) or (6)(a) of this section, the successful bidder shall be entitled to all costs and expenses incurred to the date of termination, including overhead and reasonable profits, on the percentage of the work completed. The contracting agency shall have access to the contractor's bid documents when making the contracting agency's determination of the additional compensation due to the contractor.

(b) If the contracting agency causes work to be done by another contractor under subsection (1)(c) or (e) or (6)(c) or (e) of this section, the initial contractor may not be held liable for actions or omissions of the other contractor.

(c) The change order under subsection (1)(f) or (6)(f) of this section shall include the appropriate extension of contract time and compensate the contractor for all additional costs, including overhead and reasonable profits, reasonably incurred as a result of complying with the applicable statutes, ordinances, rules or regulations. The contracting agency shall have access to the contractor's bid documents when making the contracting agency's determination of the additional compensation due to the contractor.

(8) Notwithstanding subsections (1) to (7) of this section, a contracting agency:

(a) May allocate all or a portion of the known environmental and natural resource risks to a contractor by listing such environmental and natural resource risks with specificity in the solicitation documents; and

(b) In a local improvement district, may allocate all or a portion of the known and unknown environmental and natural resource risks to a contractor by so stating in the solicitation documents. [2003 c.794 §142]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.530 Condition concerning payment for medical care and providing workers' compensation.** (1) Every public contract shall contain a condition that the contractor shall promptly, as due, make payment to any person, copartnership, association or corporation furnishing medical, surgical and hospital care services or other needed care and attention, incident to sickness or injury, to the employees of the contractor, of all sums that the contractor agrees to pay for the services and all moneys and sums that the contractor collected or

deducted from the wages of employees under any law, contract or agreement for the purpose of providing or paying for the services.

(2) Every public contract shall contain a clause or condition that all subject employers working under the contract are either employers that will comply with ORS 656.017 or employers that are exempt under ORS 656.126. [2003 c.794 §143]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

### (Hours of Labor)

**279C.540 Maximum hours of labor on public contracts; holidays; exceptions; liability to workers; rules.** (1) When labor is employed by the state or a county, school district, municipality, municipal corporation or subdivision thereof through a contractor, a person may not be required or permitted to labor more than 10 hours in any one day, or 40 hours in any one week, except in cases of necessity or emergency or when the public policy absolutely requires it, in which event, the person so employed for excessive hours shall receive at least time and a half pay:

(a)(A) For all overtime in excess of eight hours in any one day or 40 hours in any one week when the work week is five consecutive days, Monday through Friday; or

(B) For all overtime in excess of 10 hours in any one day or 40 hours in any one week when the work week is four consecutive days, Monday through Friday; and

(b) For all work performed on Saturday and on the following legal holidays:

(A) Each Sunday.

(B) New Year's Day on January 1.

(C) Memorial Day on the last Monday in May.

(D) Independence Day on July 4.

(E) Labor Day on the first Monday in September.

(F) Thanksgiving Day on the fourth Thursday in November.

(G) Christmas Day on December 25.

(2) An employer shall give notice in writing to employees who perform work under subsection (1) of this section, either at the time of hire or before commencement of work on the contract, or by posting a notice in a location frequented by employees, of the number of hours per day and days per week that employees may be required to work.

(3) For the purpose of this section, each time a legal holiday, other than Sunday, listed in subsection (1) of this section falls on Sunday, the succeeding Monday shall be recognized as a legal holiday. Each time a legal holiday listed in subsection (1) of this

section falls on Saturday, the preceding Friday shall be recognized as a legal holiday.

(4) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to a public improvement contract or a contract for services if the contractor is a party to a collective bargaining agreement in effect with any labor organization.

(5) When specifically agreed to under a written labor-management negotiated labor agreement, an employee may be paid at least time and a half pay for work performed on any legal holiday specified in ORS 187.010 and 187.020 that is not listed in subsection (1) of this section.

(6) This section does not apply to labor performed in the prevention or suppression of fire under contracts and agreements made under the authority of the State Forester or the State Board of Forestry, under ORS 477.406.

(7) This section does not apply to contracts for personal services designated under ORS 279A.055, provided that persons employed under such contracts shall receive at least time and a half pay for work performed on the legal holidays specified in subsection (1)(b)(B) to (G) of this section and for all overtime worked in excess of 40 hours in any one week, except for individuals under personal services contracts who are excluded under ORS 653.010 to 653.261 or under 29 U.S.C. 201 to 209 from receiving overtime.

(8) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to contracts for services at a county fair or for other events authorized by a county fair board if persons employed under the contract receive at least time and a half for work in excess of 10 hours in any one day or 40 hours in any one week.

(9)(a) Subsections (1) and (2) of this section do not apply to contracts for services. However, persons employed under such contracts shall receive at least time and a half pay for work performed on the legal holidays specified in a collective bargaining agreement or in subsection (1)(b)(B) to (G) of this section and for all time worked in excess of 10 hours in any one day or in excess of 40 hours in any one week, whichever is greater.

(b) An employer shall give notice in writing to employees who work on a contract for services, either at the time of hire or before commencement of work on the contract, or by posting a notice in a location frequented by employees, of the number of hours per day and days per week that the employees may be required to work.

(10) Any contractor or subcontractor or contractor's or subcontractor's surety that violates the provisions of this section is liable to the affected employees in the amount

of their unpaid overtime wages and in an additional amount equal to the unpaid overtime wages as liquidated damages. If the violation results from willful falsification of payroll records, the contractor or subcontractor or contractor's or subcontractor's surety is liable to the affected employees in the amount of their unpaid overtime wages and an additional amount equal to twice the unpaid overtime wages as liquidated damages.

(11) An action to enforce liability to employees under subsection (10) of this section may be brought as an action on the contractor's payment bond as provided for in ORS 279C.610.

(12) This section does not apply to financial institutions as defined in ORS 706.008.

(13) In accordance with ORS chapter 183, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries may adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this section. [2003 c.794 §144]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.545 Time limitation on claim for overtime; posting of circular by contractor.** When labor is employed by the state or a county, school district, municipality, municipal corporation or subdivision thereof through another as a contractor, any worker employed by the contractor shall be foreclosed from the right to collect for any overtime provided in ORS 279C.540 unless a claim for payment is filed with the contractor within 90 days from the completion of the contract, providing the contractor has:

(1) Caused a circular clearly printed in boldfaced 12-point type and containing a copy of this section to be posted in a prominent place alongside the door of the timekeeper's office or in a similar place that is readily available and freely visible to workers employed on the work.

(2) Maintained the circular continuously posted from the inception to the completion of the contract on which workers are or have been employed. [2003 c.794 §145]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

#### (Retainage and Payments)

**279C.550 "Retainage" defined.** As used in ORS 279C.550 to 279C.570, "retainage" means the difference between the amount earned by a contractor on a public contract and the amount paid on the contract by the contracting agency. [2003 c.794 §146]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.555 Withholding of retainage.** The withholding of retainage by a contractor or

subcontractor on public improvement contracts shall be in accordance with ORS 701.420 and 701.430 except when the charter of the contracting agency contains provisions requiring retainage by the contracting agency of more than five percent of the contract price of the work completed. [2003 c.794 §147]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.560 Form of retainage.** (1) Moneys retained by a contracting agency under ORS 279C.570 (7) shall be:

(a) Retained in a fund by the contracting agency and paid to the contractor in accordance with ORS 279C.570; or

(b) At the option of the contractor, paid to the contractor in accordance with subsection (3) or (4) of this section and in a manner authorized by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services.

(2) If the contracting agency incurs additional costs as a result of the exercise of the options described in subsection (1) of this section, the contracting agency may recover such costs from the contractor by reduction of the final payment. As work on the contract progresses, the contracting agency shall, upon demand, inform the contractor of all accrued costs.

(3) The contractor may deposit bonds or securities with the contracting agency or in any bank or trust company to be held in lieu of the cash retainage for the benefit of the contracting agency. In such event the contracting agency shall reduce the retainage in an amount equal to the value of the bonds and securities and pay the amount of the reduction to the contractor in accordance with ORS 279C.570. Interest on the bonds or securities shall accrue to the contractor.

(4) If the contractor elects, the retainage as accumulated shall be deposited by the contracting agency in an interest-bearing account in a bank, savings bank, trust company or savings association for the benefit of the contracting agency. When the contracting agency is a state contracting agency, the account shall be established through the State Treasurer. Earnings on the account shall accrue to the contractor.

(5) Bonds and securities deposited or acquired in lieu of retainage, as permitted by this section, shall be of a character approved by the Director of the Oregon Department of Administrative Services, including but not limited to:

(a) Bills, certificates, notes or bonds of the United States.

(b) Other obligations of the United States or its agencies.

(c) Obligations of any corporation wholly owned by the federal government.

(d) Indebtedness of the Federal National Mortgage Association.

(6) The contractor, with the approval of the contracting agency, may deposit a surety bond for all or any portion of the amount of funds retained, or to be retained, by the contracting agency in a form acceptable to the contracting agency. The bond and any proceeds therefrom shall be made subject to all claims and liens and in the same manner and priority as set forth for retainage under ORS 279C.550 to 279C.570 and 279C.600 to 279C.625. The contracting agency shall reduce the retainage in an amount equal to the value of the bond and pay the amount of the reduction to the contractor in accordance with ORS 279C.570. Whenever a contracting agency accepts a surety bond from a contractor in lieu of retainage, the contractor shall accept like bonds from any subcontractor or supplier from which the contractor has retainage. The contractor shall then reduce the retainage in an amount equal to the value of the bond and pay the amount of the reduction to the subcontractor or supplier. [2003 c.794 §148]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.565 Limitation on retainage requirements.** Unless otherwise specifically included by statute, the provisions of ORS 279C.560 or 279C.625 apply only as between the contracting agency or public body and the party with whom it contracts. [2003 c.794 §149]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.570 Prompt payment policy; progress payments; retainage; interest; exception; settlement of compensation disputes.** (1) It is the policy of the State of Oregon that all payments due on a public improvement contract and owed by a contracting agency shall be paid promptly. No contracting agency is exempt from the provisions of this section.

(2) Contracting agencies shall make progress payments on the contract monthly as work progresses on a public improvement contract. Payments shall be based upon estimates of work completed that are approved by the contracting agency. A progress payment is not considered acceptance or approval of any work or waiver of any defects therein. The contracting agency shall pay to the contractor interest on the progress payment, not including retainage, due the contractor. The interest shall commence 30 days after receipt of the invoice from the contractor or 15 days after the payment is approved by the contracting agency, whichever is the

earlier date. The rate of interest charged to the contracting agency on the amount due shall equal three times the discount rate on 90-day commercial paper in effect at the Federal Reserve Bank in the Federal Reserve district that includes Oregon on the date that is 30 days after receipt of the invoice from the contractor or 15 days after the payment is approved by the contracting agency, whichever is the earlier date, but the rate of interest may not exceed 30 percent.

(3) Interest shall be paid automatically when payments become overdue. The contracting agency shall document, calculate and pay any interest due when payment is made on the principal. Interest payments shall accompany payment of net due on public contracts. The contracting agency may not require the contractor to petition, invoice, bill or wait additional days to receive interest due.

(4) When an invoice is filled out incorrectly, when there is any defect or impropriety in any submitted invoice or when there is a good faith dispute, the contracting agency shall so notify the contractor within 15 days stating the reason or reasons the invoice is defective or improper or the reasons for the dispute. A defective or improper invoice, if corrected by the contractor within seven days of being notified by the contracting agency, may not cause a payment to be made later than specified in this section unless interest is also paid.

(5) If requested in writing by a first-tier subcontractor, the contractor, within 10 days after receiving the request, shall send to the first-tier subcontractor a copy of that portion of any invoice, request for payment submitted to the contracting agency or pay document provided by the contracting agency to the contractor specifically related to any labor or materials supplied by the first-tier subcontractor.

(6) Payment of interest may be postponed when payment on the principal is delayed because of disagreement between the contracting agency and the contractor. Whenever a contractor brings formal administrative or judicial action to collect interest due under this section, the prevailing party is entitled to costs and reasonable attorney fees.

(7) A contracting agency may reserve as retainage from any progress payment on a public contract an amount not to exceed five percent of the payment. As work progresses, a contracting agency may reduce the amount of the retainage and the contracting agency may eliminate retainage on any remaining monthly contract payments after 50 percent of the work under the contract is completed if, in the contracting agency's opinion, such

work is progressing satisfactorily. Elimination or reduction of retainage shall be allowed only upon written application by the contractor, and the application shall include written approval of the contractor's surety. However, when the contract work is 97.5 percent completed the contracting agency may, at the contracting agency's discretion and without application by the contractor, reduce the retained amount to 100 percent of the value of the contract work remaining to be done. Upon receipt of a written application by the contractor, the contracting agency shall respond in writing within a reasonable time.

(8) The retainage held by a contracting agency shall be included in and paid to the contractor as part of the final payment of the contract price. The contracting agency shall pay to the contractor interest at the rate of 1.5 percent per month on the final payment due the contractor, interest to commence 30 days after the work under the contract has been completed and accepted and to run until the date when the final payment is tendered to the contractor. The contractor shall notify the contracting agency in writing when the contractor considers the work complete and the contracting agency shall, within 15 days after receiving the written notice, either accept the work or notify the contractor of work yet to be performed on the contract. If the contracting agency does not, within the time allowed, notify the contractor of work yet to be performed to fulfill contractual obligations, the interest provided by this subsection shall commence to run 30 days after the end of the 15-day period.

(9)(a) The contracting agency shall pay, upon settlement or judgment in favor of the contractor regarding any dispute as to the compensation due a contractor for work performed under the terms of a public contract, the amount due plus interest at the rate of two times the discount rate, but not to exceed 30 percent, on 90-day commercial paper in effect at the Federal Reserve Bank in the Federal Reserve district that includes Oregon on the date of the settlement or judgment, and accruing from the later of:

(A) The due date of any progress payment received under the contract for the period in which such work was performed; or

(B) Thirty days after the date on which the claim for the payment under dispute was presented to the contracting agency by the contractor in writing or in accordance with applicable provisions of the contract.

(b) Interest shall be added to and not made a part of the settlement or judgment. [2003 c.794 §150]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

### (Subcontractors)

**279C.580 Contractor's relations with subcontractors.** (1) A contractor may not request payment from the contracting agency of any amount withheld or retained in accordance with subsection (5) of this section until such time as the contractor has determined and certified to the contracting agency that the subcontractor has determined and certified to the contracting agency that the subcontractor is entitled to the payment of such amount.

(2) A dispute between a contractor and first-tier subcontractor relating to the amount or entitlement of a first-tier subcontractor to a payment or a late payment interest penalty under a clause included in the subcontract under subsection (3) or (4) of this section does not constitute a dispute to which the contracting agency is a party. The contracting agency may not be included as a party in any administrative or judicial proceeding involving such a dispute.

(3) Each public contract awarded by a contracting agency shall include a clause that requires the contractor to include in each subcontract for property or services entered into by the contractor and a first-tier subcontractor, including a material supplier, for the purpose of performing a construction contract:

(a) A payment clause that obligates the contractor to pay the first-tier subcontractor for satisfactory performance under its subcontract within 10 days out of such amounts as are paid to the contractor by the contracting agency under the contract; and

(b) An interest penalty clause that obligates the contractor, if payment is not made within 30 days after receipt of payment from the contracting agency, to pay to the first-tier subcontractor an interest penalty on amounts due in the case of each payment not made in accordance with the payment clause included in the subcontract under paragraph (a) of this subsection. A contractor or first-tier subcontractor may not be obligated to pay an interest penalty if the only reason that the contractor or first-tier subcontractor did not make payment when payment was due is that the contractor or first-tier subcontractor did not receive payment from the contracting agency or contractor when payment was due. The interest penalty shall be:

(A) For the period beginning on the day after the required payment date and ending on the date on which payment of the amount due is made; and

(B) Computed at the rate specified in ORS 279C.515 (2).

(4) The contract awarded by the contracting agency shall require the contractor to include in each of the contractor's subcontracts, for the purpose of performance of such contract condition, a provision requiring the first-tier subcontractor to include a payment clause and an interest penalty clause conforming to the standards of subsection (3) of this section in each of the first-tier subcontractor's subcontracts and to require each of the first-tier subcontractor's subcontractors to include such clauses in their subcontracts with each lower-tier subcontractor or supplier.

(5)(a) The clauses required by subsections (3) and (4) of this section are not intended to impair the right of a contractor or a subcontractor at any tier to negotiate, and to include in the subcontract, provisions that:

(A) Permit the contractor or a subcontractor to retain, in the event of a good faith dispute, an amount not to exceed 150 percent of the amount in dispute from the amount due a subcontractor under the subcontract without incurring any obligation to pay a late payment interest penalty, in accordance with terms and conditions agreed to by the parties to the subcontract, giving such recognition as the parties consider appropriate to the ability of a subcontractor to furnish a performance bond and a payment bond;

(B) Permit the contractor or subcontractor to make a determination that part or all of the subcontractor's request for payment may be withheld in accordance with the subcontract agreement; and

(C) Permit such withholdings without incurring any obligation to pay a late payment interest penalty if:

(i) A notice conforming to the standards of subsection (8) of this section has been previously furnished to the subcontractor; and

(ii) A copy of any notice issued by a contractor under sub-subparagraph (i) of this subparagraph has been furnished to the contracting agency.

(b) As used in this subsection, "good faith dispute" means a documented dispute concerning:

(A) Unsatisfactory job progress.

(B) Defective work not remedied.

(C) Third-party claims filed or reasonable evidence that claims will be filed.

(D) Failure to make timely payments for labor, equipment and materials.

(E) Damage to the prime contractor or subcontractor.

(F) Reasonable evidence that the subcontract cannot be completed for the unpaid balance of the subcontract sum.

(6) If, after making application to a contracting agency for payment under a contract but before making a payment to a subcontractor for the subcontractor's performance covered by such application, a contractor discovers that all or a portion of the payment otherwise due the subcontractor is subject to withholding from the subcontractor in accordance with the subcontract agreement, the contractor shall:

(a) Furnish to the subcontractor a notice conforming to the standards of subsection (8) of this section as soon as practicable upon ascertaining the cause giving rise to a withholding, but prior to the due date for subcontractor payment;

(b) Furnish to the contracting agency, as soon as practicable, a copy of the notice furnished to the subcontractor under paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(c) Reduce the subcontractor's progress payment by an amount not to exceed the amount specified in the notice of withholding furnished under paragraph (a) of this subsection;

(d) Pay the subcontractor as soon as practicable after the correction of the identified subcontract performance deficiency;

(e) Make such payment within:

(A) Seven days after correction of the identified subcontract performance deficiency unless the funds therefor must be recovered from the contracting agency because of a reduction under paragraph (f)(A) of this subsection; or

(B) Seven days after the contractor recovers such funds from the contracting agency;

(f) Notify the contracting agency upon:

(A) Reduction of the amount of any subsequent certified application for payment; or

(B) Payment to the subcontractor of any withheld amounts of a progress payment, specifying:

(i) The amounts of the progress payments withheld under paragraph (a) of this subsection; and

(ii) The dates that such withholding began and ended; and

(g) Be obligated to pay to the contracting agency an amount equal to interest on the withheld payments computed in the manner provided in ORS 279C.570 from the 11th day after receipt of the withheld amounts from the contracting agency until:

(A) The day the identified subcontractor performance deficiency is corrected; or

(B) The date that any subsequent payment is reduced under paragraph (f)(A) of this subsection.

(7)(a) If a contractor, after making payment to a first-tier subcontractor, receives from a supplier or subcontractor of the first-tier subcontractor a written notice asserting a deficiency in such first-tier subcontractor's performance under the contract for which the contractor may be ultimately liable and the contractor determines that all or a portion of future payments otherwise due such first-tier subcontractor is subject to withholding in accordance with the subcontract agreement, the contractor may, without incurring an obligation to pay a late payment interest penalty under subsection (6)(e) of this section:

(A) Furnish to the first-tier subcontractor a notice conforming to the standards of subsection (8) of this section as soon as practicable upon making such determination; and

(B) Withhold from the first-tier subcontractor's next available progress payment or payments an amount not to exceed the amount specified in the notice of withholding furnished under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

(b) As soon as practicable, but not later than 10 days after receipt of satisfactory written notification that the identified subcontract performance deficiency has been corrected, the contractor shall pay the amount withheld under paragraph (a)(B) of this subsection to such first-tier subcontractor, or shall incur an obligation to pay a late payment interest penalty to such first-tier subcontractor computed at the rate specified in ORS 279C.570.

(8) A written notice of any withholding shall be issued to a subcontractor, with a copy to the contracting agency of any such notice issued by a contractor, specifying:

(a) The amount to be withheld;

(b) The specified causes for the withholding under the terms of the subcontract; and

(c) The remedial actions to be taken by the subcontractor in order to receive payment of the amounts withheld.

(9) Except as provided in subsection (2) of this section, this section does not limit or impair any contractual, administrative or judicial remedies otherwise available to a contractor or a subcontractor in the event of a dispute involving late payment or nonpayment by a contractor or deficient performance or nonperformance by a subcontractor.

(10) A contractor's obligation to pay a late payment interest penalty to a subcontractor under the clause included in a subcontract under subsection (3) or (4) of this

section is not intended to be an obligation of the contracting agency. A contract modification may not be made for the purpose of providing reimbursement of such late payment interest penalty. A cost reimbursement claim may not include any amount for reimbursement of such late payment interest penalty. [2003 c.794 §151]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.585 Authority to substitute undisclosed first-tier subcontractor; circumstances; rules.** A contractor whose bid is accepted may substitute a first-tier subcontractor that was not disclosed under ORS 279C.370 by submitting the name of the new subcontractor and the reason for the substitution in writing to the contracting agency. A contractor may substitute a first-tier subcontractor under this section in the following circumstances:

(1) When the subcontractor disclosed under ORS 279C.370 fails or refuses to execute a written contract after having had a reasonable opportunity to do so after the written contract, which must be reasonably based upon the general terms, conditions, plans and specifications for the public improvement project or the terms of the subcontractor's written bid, is presented to the subcontractor by the contractor.

(2) When the disclosed subcontractor becomes bankrupt or insolvent.

(3) When the disclosed subcontractor fails or refuses to perform the subcontract.

(4) When the disclosed subcontractor fails or refuses to meet the bond requirements of the contractor that had been identified prior to the bid submittal.

(5) When the contractor demonstrates to the contracting agency that the subcontractor was disclosed as the result of an inadvertent clerical error.

(6) When the disclosed subcontractor does not hold a license from the Construction Contractors Board and is required to be licensed by the board.

(7) When the contractor determines that the work performed by the disclosed subcontractor is substantially unsatisfactory and not in substantial accordance with the plans and specifications or that the subcontractor is substantially delaying or disrupting the progress of the work.

(8) When the disclosed subcontractor is ineligible to work on a public improvement contract under applicable statutory provisions.

(9) When the substitution is for good cause. The Construction Contractors Board shall define "good cause" by rule. "Good

cause” includes but is not limited to the financial instability of a subcontractor. The definition of “good cause” must reflect the least-cost policy for public improvements established in ORS 279C.305.

(10) When the substitution is reasonably based on the contract alternates chosen by the contracting agency. [2003 c.794 §152]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.590 Complaint process for substitutions of subcontractors; civil penalties.** (1)(a) A subcontractor disclosed under ORS 279C.370 may file a complaint based on the subcontractor disclosure requirements under ORS 279C.370 with the Construction Contractors Board about a contractor if the contractor has substituted another subcontractor for the complaining subcontractor.

(b) If more than one subcontractor files a complaint with the board under paragraph (a) of this subsection relating to a single subcontractor disclosure, the board shall consolidate the complaints into one proceeding. If the board imposes a civil penalty under this section against a contractor, the amount collected by the board shall be divided evenly among all of the complaining subcontractors.

(c) Each subcontractor filing a complaint under paragraph (a) of this subsection shall post a deposit of \$500 with the board upon filing the complaint.

(d) If the board determines that a contractor’s substitution was not in compliance with ORS 279C.585, the board shall return the full amount of the deposit posted under paragraph (c) of this subsection to the complaining subcontractor.

(e) If the board determines that a contractor has not substituted a subcontractor or that the contractor’s substitution was in compliance with ORS 279C.585, the board shall award the contractor \$250 of the deposit and shall retain the other \$250, which may be expended by the board.

(2) Upon receipt of a complaint under subsection (1) of this section, the board shall investigate the complaint. If the board determines that a contractor has substituted a subcontractor in a manner not in compliance with ORS 279C.585, the board may impose a civil penalty against the contractor under subsections (3) to (5) of this section. Civil penalties under this section shall be imposed in the manner provided under ORS 183.745.

(3) If the board imposes a civil penalty under subsection (2) of this section and it is the first time the board has imposed a civil penalty under subsection (2) of this section against the contractor during a three-year period, the board shall:

(a) Impose a civil penalty on the contractor of up to 10 percent of the amount of the subcontract bid submitted by the complaining subcontractor to the contractor or \$15,000, whichever is less. Amounts collected by the board under this paragraph shall be awarded to the complaining subcontractor or subcontractors; and

(b) Impose a civil penalty on the contractor of up to \$1,000. Amounts collected by the board under this paragraph shall be retained by the board and may be expended by the board.

(4) If the board imposes a civil penalty under subsection (2) of this section and it is the second time the board has imposed a civil penalty under subsection (2) of this section against the contractor during a three-year period, the board may:

(a) Impose a civil penalty on the contractor of up to 10 percent of the amount of the subcontract bid submitted by the complaining subcontractor to the contractor or \$15,000, whichever is less. Amounts collected by the board under this paragraph shall be awarded to the complaining subcontractor or subcontractors; and

(b) Impose a civil penalty on the contractor of up to \$1,000 and shall place the contractor on the list established under ORS 701.227 for up to six months. Amounts collected by the board under this paragraph shall be retained by the board and may be expended by the board.

(5) If the board imposes a civil penalty under subsection (2) of this section and the board has imposed a civil penalty under subsection (2) of this section against the contractor three or more times during a three-year period, the board may:

(a) Impose a civil penalty on the contractor of up to 10 percent of the amount of the subcontract bid submitted by the complaining subcontractor to the contractor or \$15,000, whichever is less. Amounts collected by the board under this paragraph shall be awarded to the complaining subcontractor or subcontractors; and

(b) Impose a civil penalty on the contractor of up to \$1,000 and shall place the contractor on the list established under ORS 701.227 for up to one year. Amounts collected by the board under this paragraph shall be retained by the board and may be expended by the board.

(6) Within 10 working days after receiving a complaint under subsection (1) of this section, the board shall notify, in writing, any contracting agency that is a party to the contract for which the complaint has been filed that the complaint has been filed. [2003 c.794 §153]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**(Action on Payment Bonds)**

**279C.600 Right of action on payment bond of contractor or subcontractor; notice of claim.** (1) A person claiming to have supplied labor or materials for the performance of the work provided for in a public contract, including any person having a direct contractual relationship with the contractor furnishing the payment bond or a direct contractual relationship with any subcontractor, or an assignee of such person, or a person claiming moneys due the State Accident Insurance Fund Corporation, the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund or the Department of Revenue in connection with the performance of the contract, has a right of action on the contractor's payment bond as provided for in ORS 279C.380 and 279C.400 only if:

(a) The person or the assignee of the person has not been paid in full; and

(b) The person gives written notice of claim, as prescribed in ORS 279C.605, to the contractor and the contracting agency.

(2) When, upon investigation, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries has received information indicating that one or more workers providing labor on a public works have not been paid in full at the prevailing rate of wage or overtime wages, the commissioner has a right of action on the contractor's payment bond, as provided in ORS 279C.380 and 279C.400. The commissioner's right of action exists without necessity of an assignment and extends to workers on the project who are not identified when the written notice of claim is given, but for whom the commissioner has received information indicating that the workers have provided labor on the public works and have not been paid in full. The commissioner shall give written notice of the claim, as prescribed in ORS 279C.605, to the contractor and the contracting agency. [2003 c.794 §154]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.605 Notice of claim.** (1) The notice of claim required by ORS 279C.600 must be sent by registered or certified mail or hand delivered no later than 120 days after the day the person last provided labor or furnished materials or 120 days after the worker listed in the notice of claim by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries last provided labor. The notice may be sent or delivered to the contractor at any place the contractor maintains an office or conducts business or at the residence of the contractor.

(2) Notwithstanding subsection (1) of this section, if the claim is for a required contribution to a fund of any employee benefit plan, the notice required by ORS 279C.600 must be sent or delivered within 150 days after the employee last provided labor or materials.

(3) The notice must be in writing substantially as follows:

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To (here insert the name of the contractor and the name of the public body):

Notice hereby is given that the undersigned (here insert the name of the claimant) has a claim for (here insert a brief description of the labor or materials performed or furnished and the person by whom performed or furnished; if the claim is for other than labor or materials, insert a brief description of the claim) in the sum of (here insert the amount) dollars against the payment bond taken from (here insert the name of the principal and, if known, the surety or sureties upon the payment bond) for the work of (here insert a brief description of the work concerning which the payment bond was taken). Such material or labor was supplied to (here insert the name of the contractor or subcontractor).

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(here to be signed)

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(4) When notice of claim is given by the commissioner and if the claim includes a worker who is then unidentified, the commissioner shall include in the notice a statement that the claim includes an unidentified worker for whom the commissioner has received information indicating that the worker has not been paid in full at the prevailing rate of wage required by ORS 279C.840 or overtime wages required by ORS 279C.540.

(5) The notice shall be signed by the person making the claim or giving the notice. [2003 c.794 §155]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.610 Action on contractor's payment bond; time limitation.** (1) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries or a person who has a right of action on the payment bond under ORS 279C.600 and, where required, who has filed and served the notice or notices of claim, as required under ORS 279C.600 and 279C.605, or that person's assignee, may institute an action on the contractor's payment bond in a circuit court of this state or the federal district court of the district.

(2) The action shall be on the relation of the commissioner, the claimant, or that person's assignee, as the case may be, and shall be in the name of the contracting agency that let the contract or, when applicable, the public agency or agencies for whose benefit the contract was let. It may be prosecuted to final judgment and execution for the use and benefit of the commissioner or the claimant, or that person's assignee, as the fact may appear.

(3) The action shall be instituted no later than two years after the person last provided labor or materials or two years after the worker listed in the commissioner's notice of claim last provided labor. [2003 c.794 §156]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.615 Preference for labor and material liens.** All labor and material liens have preference and are superior to all other liens and claims of any kind or nature created by ORS 279C.500 to 279C.530 and 279C.600 to 279C.625. [2003 c.794 §157]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.620 Rights of person providing medical care to employees of contractor.** A person providing medical, surgical or hospital care services or other needed care and attention, incident to sickness or injury, to the employees of a contractor or subcontractor on a public contract is deemed to have performed labor on the public contract for the purposes of ORS 279C.600 to 279C.625. [2003 c.794 §158]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.625 Joint liability when payment bond not executed.** If the public contract is one for which a payment bond as provided for in ORS 279C.380 and 279C.400 is required and the contractor fails to pay for labor or materials or to pay claims due the Industrial Accident Fund, the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund or the Department of Revenue and the officers of the public body that authorized the contract fail or neglect to require the person entering into the contract to execute the payment bond:

(1) The State of Oregon and the officers authorizing the contract shall be jointly liable for the labor and materials used in the performance of any work under the contract, and for claims due the Industrial Accident Fund, the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and the Department of Revenue, if the contract was entered into with the State of Oregon.

(2) The public body and the officers authorizing the contract shall be jointly liable for the labor and materials used in the per-

formance of any work under the contract and for claims due the Industrial Accident Fund, the Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund and the Department of Revenue, if the contract was entered into on behalf of a public body other than the state. [2003 c.794 §159]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

#### (Termination of Contract for Public Interest Reasons)

**279C.650 "Labor dispute" defined.** As used in ORS 279C.650 to 279C.670, "labor dispute" has the meaning given that term in ORS 662.010. [2003 c.794 §160]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.655 Extension and compensation when work suspended.** If a public contract is not terminated but work under the contract is suspended by an order of a contracting agency for any reason considered to be in the public interest other than a labor dispute or any third-party judicial proceeding relating to the work other than a suit or action filed in regards to a labor dispute, the contractor is entitled to a reasonable extension of the contract time and reasonable compensation for all costs resulting from the suspension plus a reasonable allowance for overhead with respect to such costs. [2003 c.794 §161]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.660 Compensation when contract terminated due to public interest.** When a public contract is terminated by mutual agreement, provision shall be made for the payment of compensation to the contractor. In addition to a reasonable amount of compensation for preparatory work and for all costs and expenses arising out of termination, the amount to be paid to the contractor:

(1) Shall be determined on the basis of the contract price in the case of any fully completed separate item or portion of the work for which there is a separate or unit contract price; and

(2) May, with respect to any other work, be a percent of the contract price equal to the percentage of the work completed. [2003 c.794 §162]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.665 Contractual provisions for compensation when contract terminated due to public interest.** A contracting agency may provide in a public improvement contract detailed provisions under which the contractor shall be entitled, as a matter of right, to compensation upon termination of the contract on account of any reason con-

sidered to be in the public interest. [2003 c.794 §163]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.670 Application of ORS 279C.650 to 279C.670.** ORS 279C.650 to 279C.670 do not apply to suspension of the work or termination of the contract that occurs as a result of the contractor's violation of federal, state or local statutes, ordinances, rules or regulations in existence at the time the contract was executed or as a result of violations of the terms of the contract. [2003 c.794 §164]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

### PREVAILING WAGE RATE

**279C.800 Definitions for ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870.** As used in ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870, unless the context requires otherwise:

(1) "Fringe benefits" means the amount of:

(a) The rate of contribution irrevocably made by a contractor or subcontractor to a trustee or to a third person under a plan, fund or program; and

(b) The rate of costs to the contractor or subcontractor that may be reasonably anticipated in providing benefits to workers pursuant to an enforceable commitment to carry out a financially responsible plan or program that is committed in writing to the workers affected, for medical or hospital care, pensions on retirement or death, compensation for injuries or illness resulting from occupational activity, or insurance to provide any of the foregoing, for unemployment benefits, life insurance, disability and sickness insurance or accident insurance, for vacation and holiday pay, for defraying costs of apprenticeship or other similar programs or for other bona fide fringe benefits, but only when the contractor or subcontractor is not required by other federal, state or local law to provide any of these benefits.

(2) "Locality" means the following district in which the public works, or the major portion thereof, is to be performed:

(a) District 1, composed of Clatsop, Columbia and Tillamook Counties;

(b) District 2, composed of Clackamas, Multnomah and Washington Counties;

(c) District 3, composed of Marion, Polk and Yamhill Counties;

(d) District 4, composed of Benton, Lincoln and Linn Counties;

(e) District 5, composed of Lane County;

(f) District 6, composed of Douglas County;

(g) District 7, composed of Coos and Curry Counties;

(h) District 8, composed of Jackson and Josephine Counties;

(i) District 9, composed of Hood River, Sherman and Wasco Counties;

(j) District 10, composed of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties;

(k) District 11, composed of Klamath and Lake Counties;

(L) District 12, composed of Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Umatilla and Wheeler Counties;

(m) District 13, composed of Baker, Union and Wallowa Counties; and

(n) District 14, composed of Harney and Malheur Counties.

(3) "Prevailing rate of wage" means the rate of hourly wage, including all fringe benefits, paid in the locality to the majority of workers employed on projects of similar character in the same trade or occupation, as determined by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries. In making such determinations, the commissioner shall rely on an independent wage survey to be conducted once each year. However, if it appears to the commissioner that the data derived from the survey alone are insufficient to establish the rate, the commissioner also shall consider additional information such as collective bargaining agreements, other independent wage surveys and the prevailing rates of wage determined by appropriate federal agencies or agencies of adjoining states. If there is not a majority in the same trade or occupation paid at the same rate, the average rate of hourly wage, including all fringe benefits, paid in the locality to workers in the same trade or occupation shall be the prevailing rate. If the wage paid by any contractor or subcontractor to workers on any public works is based on some period of time other than an hour, the hourly wage shall be mathematically determined by the number of hours worked in that period of time.

(4) "Public agency" means the State of Oregon or any political subdivision thereof or any county, city, district, authority, public corporation or entity and any of their instrumentalities organized and existing under law or charter.

(5) "Public works" includes, but is not limited to, roads, highways, buildings, structures and improvements of all types, the construction, reconstruction, major renovation or painting of which is carried on or contracted for by any public agency to serve the public interest but does not include the reconstruction or renovation of privately

owned property that is leased by a public agency. [2003 c.794 §165]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.805 Policy.** The Legislative Assembly declares that the purposes of the prevailing rate of wage law are:

(1) To ensure that contractors compete on the ability to perform work competently and efficiently while maintaining community-established compensation standards.

(2) To recognize that local participation in publicly financed construction and family wage income and benefits are essential to the protection of community standards.

(3) To encourage training and education of workers to industry skills standards.

(4) To encourage employers to use funds allocated for employee fringe benefits for the actual purchase of those benefits. [2003 c.794 §166]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.810 Exemptions.** (1) ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 do not apply to:

(a) Projects for which the contract price does not exceed \$25,000.

(b) Projects regulated under the Davis-Bacon Act (40 U.S.C. 276a). Notwithstanding such regulation, contractors and subcontractors shall pay individuals employed as flaggers on the projects not less than the prevailing rate of wage as determined by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries for that classification of work. As used in this paragraph, “flagger” means a person who controls the movement of vehicular traffic through construction projects using sign, hand or flag signals.

(c)(A) Projects for which no funds of a public agency are directly or indirectly used. In accordance with ORS chapter 183, the commissioner shall adopt rules to carry out the provisions of this paragraph.

(B) As used in this paragraph:

(i) “Funds of a public agency” does not include funds provided in the form of a government grant to a nonprofit organization, unless the government grant is issued for the purpose of construction.

(ii) “Nonprofit organization” means an organization or group of organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code that is exempt from income tax under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code.

(2)(a) A public agency may not divide a public works project into more than one contract for the purpose of avoiding compliance with ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870.

(b) When the commissioner determines that a public agency has divided a public works project for the purpose of avoiding compliance with ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870, the commissioner shall issue an order compelling compliance.

(c) In making determinations under this subsection, the commissioner shall consider:

(A) The physical separation of the project structures;

(B) The timing of the work on project phases or structures;

(C) The continuity of project contractors and subcontractors working on project parts or phases; and

(D) The manner in which the public agency and the contractors administer and implement the project. [2003 c.794 §172]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.815 Determination of prevailing rates of wage; providing information to commissioner.** (1) As used in this section, “person” includes any employer, labor organization or any official representative of an employee or employer association.

(2) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries shall determine the prevailing rate of wage for workers in each trade or occupation in each locality described in ORS 279C.800 at least once each year by means of an independent wage survey and make this information available at least twice each year. The commissioner may amend the rate at any time.

(3) A person shall make such reports and returns to the Bureau of Labor and Industries as the commissioner may require to determine the prevailing rates of wage. The reports and returns shall be made upon forms furnished by the bureau and within the time prescribed therefor by the commissioner. The person or an authorized representative of the person shall certify to the accuracy of the reports and returns.

(4) Notwithstanding ORS 192.410 to 192.505, all reports and returns or other information provided to the commissioner under this section are confidential and not available for inspection by the public.

(5) In order to assist the commissioner in making determinations of the prevailing rates of wage, the commissioner may enter into contracts with public or private parties to obtain relevant data and information. Any such contract may include provisions for the manner and extent of the market review of affected trades and occupations and such other requirements regarding timelines of reports, accuracy of data and information

and supervision and review as the commissioner may prescribe. [2003 c.794 §173]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.820 Advisory committee to assist commissioner.** (1) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries shall appoint an advisory committee to assist the commissioner in the administration of ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870.

(2) The advisory committee must include equal representation of members from management and labor in the building and construction industry who perform work on public works contracts and such other interested parties as the commissioner shall appoint. [2003 c.794 §179]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.825 Fees; rules.** (1)(a) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, by rule, shall establish a fee to be paid by the contractor to whom a public works contract subject to ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 has been awarded. The fee shall be used to pay the costs of:

(A) Surveys to determine the prevailing rates of wage;

(B) Administering and providing investigations under and enforcement of ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870; and

(C) Providing educational programs on public contracting law under the Public Contracting Code.

(b) The fee shall be 0.1 percent of the contract price. However, in no event may a fee be charged and collected that is more than \$5,000 or less than \$100.

(2) The commissioner shall pay moneys received under this section into the State Treasury. The moneys shall be credited to the Prevailing Wage Education and Enforcement Account created by ORS 651.185.

(3) The contractor shall pay the fee at the time of the first progress payment or 60 days after work on the contract has begun, whichever date is earlier.

(4) Failure to make timely payment under subsection (3) of this section shall subject the contractor to a civil penalty under ORS 279C.865 in such amount as the commissioner, by rule, shall specify. [2003 c.794 §178]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.830 Contractual provisions regarding prevailing rates of wage and fee for administration of law.** (1) The specifications for every contract for public works shall contain a provision stating the existing prevailing rate of wage that may be paid to workers in each trade or occupation required

for the public works employed in the performance of the contract either by the contractor or subcontractor or other person doing or contracting to do the whole or any part of the work contemplated by the contract. The contract shall contain a provision that the workers shall be paid not less than the specified minimum hourly rate of wage.

(2) The specifications for every contract for public works shall contain a provision stating that a fee is required to be paid to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries as provided in ORS 279C.825 (1). The contract shall contain a provision that the fee shall be paid to the commissioner under the administrative rule of the commissioner. [2003 c.794 §168]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.835 Notifying commissioner of public works contract.** Public agencies shall notify the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries in writing, on a form prescribed by the commissioner, whenever a contract subject to the provisions of ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 has been awarded. The notification shall be made within 30 days of the date that the contract is awarded. The notification shall include a copy of the disclosure of first-tier subcontractors that was submitted under ORS 279C.370. [2003 c.794 §175]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.840 Payment of prevailing rate of wage; posting of rates and fringe benefit plan provisions.** (1) The hourly rate of wage to be paid by any contractor or subcontractor to workers upon all public works shall be not less than the prevailing rate of wage for an hour's work in the same trade or occupation in the locality where the labor is performed. The obligation of a contractor or subcontractor to pay the prevailing rate of wage may be discharged by making the payments in cash, by the making of contributions of a type referred to in ORS 279C.800 (1)(a), or by the assumption of an enforceable commitment to bear the costs of a plan or program of a type referred to in ORS 279C.800 (1)(b), or any combination thereof, where the aggregate of any such payments, contributions and costs is not less than the prevailing rate of wage.

(2) After a contract for public works is executed with any contractor or work is commenced upon any public works, the amount of the prevailing rate of wage is not subject to attack in any legal proceeding by any contractor or subcontractor in connection with that contract.

(3) It is not a defense in any legal proceeding that the prevailing rate of wage is less than the amount required to be in the

specifications of a contract for public works, or that there was an agreement between the employee and the employer to work at less than the wage rates required to be paid under this section.

(4) Every contractor or subcontractor engaged on a project for which there is a contract for a public works shall keep the prevailing rates of wage for that project posted in a conspicuous and accessible place in or about the project. The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries shall furnish without charge copies of the prevailing rates of wage to contractors and subcontractors.

(5) Every contractor or subcontractor engaged on a project for which there is a contract for a public works to which the prevailing wage requirements apply that also provides or contributes to a health and welfare plan or a pension plan, or both, for the contractor or subcontractor's employees on the project shall post a notice describing the plan in a conspicuous and accessible place in or about the project. The notice preferably shall be posted in the same place as the notice required under subsection (4) of this section. In addition to the description of the plan, the notice shall contain information on how and where to make claims and where to obtain further information.

(6)(a) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this subsection, no person other than the contractor or subcontractor may pay or contribute any portion of the prevailing rate of wage paid by the contractor or subcontractor to workers employed in the performance of a public works contract.

(b) For the purpose of this subsection, the prevailing rate of wage is the prevailing rate of wage specified in the contract.

(c) This subsection is not intended to prohibit payments to a worker who is enrolled in any government-subsidized training or retraining program.

(7) A person may not take any action that circumvents the payment of the prevailing rate of wage to workers employed on a public works contract, including, but not limited to, reducing an employee's regular rate of pay on any project not subject to ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 in a manner that has the effect of offsetting the prevailing rate of wage on a public works project. [2003 c.794 §167]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.845 Certified statements regarding payment of prevailing rates of wage.**

(1) The contractor or the contractor's surety and every subcontractor or the subcontractor's surety shall file certified statements

with the public agency in writing, on a form prescribed by the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, certifying the hourly rate of wage paid each worker whom the contractor or the subcontractor has employed upon the public works, and further certifying that no worker employed upon the public works has been paid less than the prevailing rate of wage or less than the minimum hourly rate of wage specified in the contract. The certificate and statement shall be verified by the oath of the contractor or the contractor's surety or subcontractor or the subcontractor's surety that the contractor or subcontractor has read the statement and certificate and knows the contents thereof and that the same is true to the contractor or subcontractor's knowledge. The certified statements shall set out accurately and completely the payroll records for the prior week, including the name and address of each worker, the worker's correct classification, rate of pay, daily and weekly number of hours worked, deductions made and actual wages paid.

(2) The contractor or subcontractor shall deliver or mail each certified statement required by subsection (1) of this section to the public agency. Certified statements for each week during which the contractor or subcontractor employs a worker upon the public works shall be submitted once a month, by the fifth business day of the following month. Information submitted on certified statements may be used only to ensure compliance with the provisions of ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870.

(3) Each contractor or subcontractor shall preserve the certified statements for a period of three years from the date of completion of the contract.

(4) Certified statements received by a public agency are public records subject to the provisions of ORS 192.410 to 192.505. [2003 c.794 §169]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.850 Inspection to determine whether prevailing rate of wage being paid; civil action for failure to pay prevailing rate of wage or overtime.**

(1) At any reasonable time the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries may enter the office or business establishment of any contractor or subcontractor performing public works and gather facts and information necessary to determine whether the prevailing rate of wage is actually being paid by such contractor or subcontractor to workers upon public works.

(2) Upon request by the commissioner, every contractor or subcontractor performing work on public works shall make available

to the commissioner for inspection during normal business hours any payroll or other records in the possession or under the control of the contractor or subcontractor that are deemed necessary by the commissioner to determine whether the prevailing rate of wage is actually being paid by such contractor or subcontractor to workers upon public works. The commissioner's request must be made a reasonable time in advance of the inspection.

(3) Notwithstanding ORS 192.410 to 192.505, any record obtained or made by the commissioner under this section is not open to inspection by the public.

(4) The commissioner may, without necessity of an assignment, initiate legal proceedings against employers to enjoin future failures to pay required prevailing rates of wage or overtime pay and to require the payment of prevailing rates of wage or overtime pay due employees. The commissioner is entitled to recover, in addition to other costs, such sum as the court or judge may determine reasonable as attorney fees. If the commissioner does not prevail in the action, the commissioner shall pay all costs and disbursements from the Bureau of Labor and Industries Account. [2003 c.794 §170]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.855 Liability for violations.** (1) Any contractor or subcontractor or contractor's or subcontractor's surety that violates the provisions of ORS 279C.840 is liable to the workers affected in the amount of their unpaid minimum wages, including all fringe benefits as defined in ORS 279C.800, and in an additional amount equal to the unpaid wages as liquidated damages.

(2) Actions to enforce liability to workers under subsection (1) of this section may be brought as actions on contractors' bonds as provided for in ORS 279C.610.

(3) If the public agency fails to include a provision that the contractor and any subcontractor shall comply with ORS 279C.840 in the advertisement for bids, the request for bids, the contract specifications, the accepted bid or elsewhere in the contract documents, the liability of the public agency for unpaid minimum wages, as described in subsection (1) of this section, is joint and several with any contractor or subcontractor that had notice of the requirement to comply with ORS 279C.840. The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries may enforce the provisions of this subsection by a civil action under ORS 279C.850 (4), by a civil action on an assigned wage claim under ORS 652.330, or by an administrative proceeding on an assigned wage claim under ORS 652.332. [2003 c.794 §171]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.860 Ineligibility for public works contracts for failure to pay or post notice of prevailing rates of wage; certified payroll reports to commissioner.** (1) When the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries, in accordance with the provisions of ORS chapter 183, determines that a contractor or subcontractor has intentionally failed or refused to pay the prevailing rate of wage to workers employed upon public works, a subcontractor has failed to pay to its employees amounts required by ORS 279C.840 and the contractor has paid those amounts on the subcontractor's behalf, or a contractor or subcontractor has intentionally failed or refused to post the prevailing rates of wage as required by ORS 279C.840 (4), the contractor, subcontractor or any firm, corporation, partnership or association in which the contractor or subcontractor has a financial interest shall be ineligible, for a period not to exceed three years from the date of publication of the name of the contractor or subcontractor on the ineligible list as provided in this section, to receive any contract or subcontract for public works. The commissioner shall maintain a written list of the names of those contractors and subcontractors determined to be ineligible under this section and the period of time for which they are ineligible. A copy of the list shall be published, furnished upon request and made available to contracting agencies.

(2) When the contractor or subcontractor is a corporation, the provisions of subsection (1) of this section apply to any corporate officer or corporate agent who is responsible for the failure or refusal to pay or post the prevailing rate of wage or the failure to pay to a subcontractor's employees amounts required by ORS 279C.840 that are paid by the contractor on the subcontractor's behalf.

(3) For good cause shown, the commissioner may direct the removal of the name of a contractor or subcontractor from the ineligible list.

(4) To assist the commissioner in determining whether the contractor or subcontractor is paying the prevailing rate of wage, when a prevailing rate of wage claim is filed, or evidence indicating a violation has occurred, a contractor or subcontractor required to pay the prevailing rate of wage to workers employed upon public works under ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 shall send a certified copy of the payroll for those workers when the commissioner requests the certified copy. [2003 c.794 §174]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.865 Civil penalties.** (1) In addition to any other penalty provided by law, the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries may assess a civil penalty not to exceed \$5,000 for each violation of any provision of ORS 279C.800 to 279C.870 or any rule of the commissioner adopted thereunder.

(2) Civil penalties under this section shall be imposed as provided in ORS 183.745.

(3) All moneys collected as penalties under this section shall be first applied toward reimbursement of costs incurred in determining violations, conducting hearings and assessing and collecting the penalties. The remainder, if any, of moneys collected as penalties under this section shall be paid into the State Treasury and credited to the General Fund and are available for general governmental expenses. [2003 c.794 §177]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.

**279C.870 Civil action to enforce payment of prevailing rates of wage.** (1) The Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor and Industries or any other person may bring a civil action in any court of competent jurisdiction to require a public agency under a public contract with a contractor to withhold twice the wages in dispute if it is shown that the contractor or subcontractor on the contract has intentionally failed or refused to pay the prevailing rate of wage to workers employed on that contract and to require the contractor to pay the prevailing rate of wage and any deficiencies that can be shown to exist because of improper wage payments already made. In addition to other relief, the

court may also enjoin the contractor or subcontractor from committing future violations. The contractor or subcontractor involved shall be named as a party in all civil actions brought under this section. In addition to other costs, the court may award the prevailing party reasonable attorney fees at the trial and on appeal. However, attorney fees may not be awarded against the commissioner under this section.

(2) The court shall require any party, other than the commissioner, that brings a civil action under this section to post a bond sufficient to cover the estimated attorney fees and costs to the public agency and to the contractor or subcontractor of any temporary restraining order, preliminary injunction or permanent injunction awarded in the action, in the event that the party bringing the action does not ultimately prevail.

(3) In addition to any other relief, the court in a civil action brought under this section may enjoin the public agency from contracting with the contractor or subcontractor if the court finds that the commissioner would be entitled to place the contractor or subcontractor on the ineligible list established under ORS 279C.860 (1). If the court issues such an injunction, the commissioner shall place the contractor or subcontractor on the list for a period of three years, subject to the provision of ORS 279C.860 (2). [2003 c.794 §176]

**Note:** See note under 279C.005 for operative date and applicability provisions.