

Workplace Safety Laws (continued)

No worker under 18 may do the following:

Laws protect teens from doing dangerous work. For example, in Minnesota, no worker under age 18 may do the following:

- Work over 12 feet above the ground.
- Work near or with explosives.
- Work in the logging industry or in a sawmill.
- Drive a forklift.
- Use power equipment, such as a saw or punch press.
- Work on a construction site.
- Work with meat slicers or bakery machines.
- Drive as a regular part of their duties.
- Load or unload power-driven paper balers/ compactors.

These are just a few examples. There are other dangerous jobs teens are not allowed to do.

No worker under 16 may do the following:

- Work with any type of power-driven machinery.
- Work in a laundry or dry cleaner.
- Work with power snowblowers or lawn mowers.
- Work on a ladder or scaffolding.
- Cook or bake.
- Lift or carry patients in hospitals or nursing homes.
- Work in walk-in meat freezers or coolers.

No one under 16 is allowed to do the following agricultural work, except on family farms:

- Drive a tractor with greater than 20 horsepower.
- Operate large farm machinery, such as corn pickers, grain combines, hay mowers, or auger conveyors.
- Work with bulls, boars, stud horses, sows with suckling pigs, or cows with calves.
- Ride on a tractor as a passenger or helper.
- Work inside a storage bin, silo, or manure pit.
- Apply agricultural chemicals.
- Transport or apply anhydrous ammonia.

What if I need help?

- Talk to your supervisor about the problem.
- Talk to your parents or teachers.
- If necessary, contact the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry:
 - Email: dli.laborstandards@state.mn.us
 - Phone: 1-(800) 342-5354.
- Call your safety representative or labor union.

You have a RIGHT to speak up! It is illegal for your employer to fire or punish you for reporting a workplace problem. Workers also have the right to form unions.

For more information on child labor laws:

U.S. Dept. of Labor - Youth Rules! - www.youthrules.dol.gov/
Minnesota Dept. of Labor and Industry - www.dli.mn.gov/ls/childlabor.asp