

## Agency Purpose

The mission of the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is to ensure Minnesota's work and living environments are equitable, healthy, and safe. Its vision is to be a trusted resource and an impartial regulator for employers, employees, and property owners.

Agency activities are designed to assure

- ◆ workplaces are free from injury and illness;
- ◆ buildings are safe and healthy for those who occupy them;
- ◆ workers injured on the job are provided treatment and benefits required by law;
- ◆ workers from all communities have the opportunity to receive critical skills through apprenticeship training;
- ◆ workers who construct and inspect buildings are qualified to perform the work;
- ◆ workers, potential workers, and employers have a clear understanding of their rights and responsibilities in the workplace; and
- ◆ customers have ready access to reliable resources that assist them in complying with the laws and regulations the agency is responsible for administering and enforcing.

## At A Glance

- ◆ Administer laws affecting Minnesota's 2.6 million employees and 159,000 employers
- ◆ Oversee workers' compensation claims and benefit payments for 141,000 injuries and 53 workplace fatalities annually
- ◆ Conduct more than 200,000 inspections per year
- ◆ Issue more than 95,000 licenses and certifications per year
- ◆ Monitor more than 8,000 registered apprentices

## Core Functions

DLI administers laws related to employment, apprenticeship, workplace safety, workers' compensation, and construction of buildings through its core functions:

- ◆ provide training, outreach, and other resources to agency customers;
- ◆ promulgate construction codes;
- ◆ conduct plan-reviews, inspections, audits, and investigations;
- ◆ review workers' compensation claims and oversee the provision of benefits;
- ◆ provide informal dispute-resolution services;
- ◆ provide vocational rehabilitation services;
- ◆ issue penalties for violations of the law;
- ◆ issue professional licenses and certifications; and
- ◆ register apprenticeship programs.

## Operations

DLI's primary customers are Minnesota workers, employers, and building owners. Other stakeholders include builders, contractors, building officials, manufacturers of building products, insurers, attorneys, rehabilitation and health care providers, employment agencies, building owners, and boat owners. Services are provided through four DLI divisions.

The **Workers' Compensation Division** oversees and administers the workers' compensation system in Minnesota through the following four activities.

- ⇒ **Claims Services and Investigations** verifies and enforces employers workers' compensation insurance coverage, administers claims for injured workers of uninsured and bankrupt self-insured employers, and administers asbestosis claims. It also reimburses second-injury and supplementary benefits to insurers and self-insured employers.
- ⇒ **Benefit Management and Resolution** provides assistance and information about workers' compensation laws and processes to injured workers, employers, and other stakeholders. The unit ensures employers and insurers provide timely and accurate benefits through compliance, penalties, and education. It also certifies managed care organizations and qualified rehabilitation consultants, and monitors their professional conduct. Services extend to alternative dispute-resolution services, including mediations, conferences, telephone information, walk-in assistance, and dispute certification. In addition, the unit provides both formal and informal training sessions to workers' compensation stakeholders.

- ⇒ **Vocational Rehabilitation** provides vocational services to injured workers whose claims have been denied or whose claims are in dispute and are awaiting resolution in court.
- ⇒ **Information Processing Center** creates, maintains, and manages the availability of workers' compensation claim files. The unit audits workers' compensation claim files for adherence to the law. It also provides required workplace posters to employers upon request.

The **Safety Codes and Services Division** assures safety standards, construction codes, and construction-related licensing complies with legal requirements through the following three activities.

- ⇒ **Construction Codes and Licensing** promulgates construction codes for buildings, plumbing, electrical, accessibility, elevator, energy, manufactured structures, boilers, and high-pressure-piping systems, and licenses those who install and inspect them. It provides technical assistance and education to building owners, contractors, and code officials, and reviews and inspects certain construction projects for compliance with construction codes.
- ⇒ **MNOSHA Compliance** conducts safety and health inspections of workplaces and issues citations for noncompliance with standards. It provides technical assistance, outreach, and education about safety and health issues. It also develops partnerships with organizations and investigates allegations of adverse employment actions against employees who make safety and health complaints.
- ⇒ **Workplace Safety Consultation** provides safety and health inspections, alliances, training and outreach sessions, and technical assistance to public and private-sector employers, primarily targeting small high-hazard industries. It also administers safety programs such as safety grants, labor-management safety committees, workplace violence prevention, ergonomics, and logger education.

The **Labor Standards and Apprenticeship Division** enforces employment laws governing child labor, minimum wage, overtime, prevailing wage, and parental leave. It regulates, supervises, and promotes apprenticeship programs that meet state standards. It also provides outreach and education to employers and employees, and issues licenses to fee employment agencies.

The **General Support Division** supports agency operations through communications, legislative relations, financial management, human resources, information technology, research and statistics, legal advice, rulemaking, and litigation.

## Budget

DLI's budget comes from two primary sources: the workers' compensation fund, which is financed primarily by an assessment collected from workers' compensation insurers and self-insured employers; and the special revenue fund, which is financed by the stakeholders of the construction industry through permit, licensing, and inspection fees. The remainder of DLI's budget is financed by the general, workforce development, and federal funds. More than 55% of agency expenditures are for workers' compensation benefit payments to injured workers. The DLI staff includes 459 full-time-equivalent employees working in locations throughout the state.

### Contact

For more information, contact DLI Communications at (651) 284-5313.

More than 1,000 visitors stop by the DLI Web site ([www.doli.state.mn.us](http://www.doli.state.mn.us)) each day to learn more about Minnesota's employment laws, safety and health standards, work-related injuries, and worker training programs.

For information about department goals and results, visit the Minnesota Department Results Web site at [www.departmentresults.state.mn.us/doli](http://www.departmentresults.state.mn.us/doli).