

NEW ZEALAND FURNITURE, GLASS-WORKING, AND WICKERWORKING INDUSTRIES—AMENDMENT OF APPRENTICESHIP ORDER

In the Court of Arbitration of New Zealand—In the matter of the Apprentices Act 1948; and in the matter of the New Zealand Furniture, Glass-working, and Wickerworking Industries Apprenticeship Order dated the 10th day of September 1956, and recorded in 56 Book of Awards 1580.

WHEREAS by section 13 (2) of the Apprentices Act 1948, the Court is empowered to amend any apprenticeship order: And whereas application has been made to the Court by the New Zealand Furniture Trades Apprenticeship Committee for amendment of the New Zealand Furniture, Glass-working, and Wickerworking Industries Apprenticeship Order dated the 10th day of September 1956, and recorded in 56 Book of Awards 1580: And whereas the Court has heard the employers, workers, and other persons concerned and has considered the recommendations made to it by the said Committee: Now therefore, the Court, in pursuance and exercise of the powers vested in it by the said Act, doth hereby order as follows:

1. That the said apprenticeship order shall be amended by deleting subclauses (a) and (b) of clause 10 (wages) and substituting therefor the following subclauses:

“(a) The minimum weekly rates of wages payable to apprentices, other than those provided for in subclause (b) hereof, shall be the undermentioned percentages of the minimum weekly wage rate for journeymen (or if no weekly wage rate is prescribed, then an amount equal to forty times the minimum hourly wage rate for journeymen) in the branch of the industry to which the apprentice is apprenticed, as prescribed by the award or agreement relating to the employment of such journeymen in the establishment in which the apprentice is employed and in force for the time being and from time to time:

For apprentices commencing their apprenticeship when under eighteen years of age:

	Per Cent
First 1,000-hour period	32
Second 1,000-hour period	37
Third 1,000-hour period	42
Fourth 1,000-hour period	47
Fifth 1,000-hour period	52
Sixth 1,000-hour period	57
Seventh 1,000-hour period	62
Eighth 1,000-hour period	67
Ninth 1,000-hour period	72
Tenth 1,000-hour period	77

For apprentices commencing their apprenticeship when eighteen years of age or over:

	Per Cent
First 1,000-hour period	44
Second 1,000-hour period	49
Third 1,000-hour period	54
Fourth 1,000-hour period	59
Fifth 1,000-hour period	64
Sixth 1,000-hour period	69
Seventh 1,000-hour period	74
Eighth 1,000-hour period	79
Ninth 1,000-hour period	84
Tenth 1,000-hour period	89

Provided that an apprentice serving a term of apprenticeship of 9,000 hours in accordance with subclause (b) of clause 7 of this order shall be paid wages as prescribed above commencing at the second 1,000-hour period.

(b) The minimum weekly rates of wages payable to apprentices in branches of the industry for which a 6,000-hour term of apprenticeship is provided shall be the undermentioned percentages of the minimum weekly wage rate for journeymen (or if no weekly wage rate is prescribed, then of an amount equal to forty times the minimum hourly wage rate for journeymen) in the branch of the industry to which the apprentice is apprenticed, as prescribed by the award or agreement relating to the employment of such journeymen in the establishment in which the apprentice is apprenticed and in force for the time being and from time to time.

	Per Cent
First 1,000-hour period	56
Second 1,000-hour period	61
Third 1,000-hour period	66
Fourth 1,000-hour period	69
Fifth 1,000-hour period	72
Sixth 1,000-hour period	77"

2. That this order shall operate and take effect as from the day of the date hereof.

Dated this 20th day of September 1957.

[L.S.]

A. TYNDALL, Judge.

MEMORANDUM

An application by the New Zealand Furniture Trades Apprenticeship Committee for an amendment to the New Zealand Furniture, Glass-working, and Wickerworking Industries Apprenticeship Order is before the Court. The object of the proposed amendment is to increase the minimum weekly rates of wages payable to apprentices in accordance with a unanimous recommendation of the committee. The action of the committee follows upon a decision of the Court to increase the wage rates in the New Zealand Motor Industry Apprenticeship Order.

The form of the scales in the two orders are not fully identical; consequently the Court's decision in the motor trade case does not constitute a wholly applicable precedent.

After an indication that the New Zealand Furniture and Furnishing Trades Industrial Association of Employers desired to make representations upon the proposed amendment, the Court pursuant to section 13 (3) of the Apprentices Act 1948 decided to afford the employers and workers in the industry an opportunity of being heard and of calling evidence in respect thereof.

The hearing took place on Wednesday, 18 September 1957 when submissions were made on behalf of the New Zealand Apprenticeship Committee, the New Zealand Furniture and Furnishing Trades Industrial Association of Employers and the New Zealand Federated Furniture and Related Trades Industrial Association of Workers. No evidence was called by any of the parties.

Section 13 (5) of the Apprentices Act directs the Court that in making any order under section 13 it shall take into account any recommendation that may be made by the appropriate New Zealand Committee.

We have carefully considered the submissions of the parties who appeared at the hearing and have decided in making the amendment to adopt the unanimous recommendation of the New Zealand Committee, which we consider has more to commend it as a fair and equitable solution than the alternative proposal submitted on behalf of the Association of Employers.

A. TYNDALL, Judge.