



FURNITURE BARGAINING COUNCIL

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CIRCULAR 04/09

TO ALL EMPLOYERS AND EMPLOYEES IN THE INDUSTRY

Sir/Madam

PRESCRIBED ANNUAL CLOSURE DATES AND PAID PUBLIC HOLIDAYS - DECEMBER 2009 AND JANUARY 2010

Please note the following provisions of the Industry's Collective Agreement in respect of annual closure dates and public holidays that fall during Annual Closure dates.

1. Annual Closure Dates

Establishments may themselves, to a limited extent, determine their own annual closure dates for December 2009 and January 2010, for a period of **fifteen (15)** consecutive working days as follows:

The first day of annual closure for all establishments must be between Monday, **14 December 2009** and Tuesday **22 December 2009** and the last day of annual closure for all establishments must be between Wednesday, **6 January 2010** and Wednesday, **13 January 2010**.

NB: During any period of annual closure, no employer shall require or permit an employee to perform work and no employee shall undertake work, whether for remuneration or not.

2. Public Holidays

The following public holidays must be observed during December 2009 and January 2010 and all employees must be paid in respect of these public holidays, irrespective of whether such public holidays fall during your establishment's annual closure period or not and employees must be paid for these public holidays in accordance with point 3 of this Circular.

Wednesday - 16 December 2009 - Day of Reconciliation
Friday - 25 December 2009 - Christmas Day
Saturday - 26 December 2009 - Day of Goodwill
Friday - 1 January 2010 - New Years Day

3. Remuneration for Public Holidays

Should a public holiday fall on a Sunday, the following Monday must be observed as a public holiday in lieu of the Sunday. Employees must be paid for the Monday only.

- Employees are entitled to remuneration for all public holidays which fall during any period of annual closure (provided that they fall on a normal working day or on a Sunday). Remuneration for these public holidays must be equal to the remuneration that an employee would normally have been paid for such a day, had he/she worked on that day.
- In the event of an employee's employment being terminated by an employer seven (7) working days or less prior to an establishment's annual closure, the employee concerned must nevertheless be remunerated for all public holidays that fall within the establishment's annual closure period.

4. Employer and Employee Contributions payable to the Council during the annual closure period

Where an employee qualifies for the payment of wages for paid public holidays during the annual closure period, the time which is to be used to determine these wages must be reflected on the establishment's monthly return form, and all employer and employee contributions, which are normally payable to the Council based on this time, must be paid over to the Council for that specific pay week.

Kindly ensure that all provisions of this Circular are complied with. Do not hesitate to contact the Council's Inspectorate Department should you require any additional information. Please do not contact any junior staff members of the Council regarding this matter.

A COPY OF THIS CIRCULAR MUST BE DISPLAYED ON YOUR ESTABLISHMENT'S NOTICE BOARD