

Department of Labor and Workforce Development
2026 Regulatory Reform Plan

Provided below, in accordance with directions from the Department of Law, is the 2026 Regulatory Reform Plan for the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (DOLWD). This plan focuses on changes to regulations and materials incorporated by reference. Beyond these efforts, the DOLWD will also be making changes to reduce the length and quantity of guidance documentation in 2026 to keep them short, simple, accurate, and up to date.

The Departments Baseline Calculation

The DOLWD regulatory baseline of discretionary requirements, including materials incorporated by reference, is as follows:

Section	Discretionary Requirements	2026 Reduction Plan	2027 Reduction Plan
Division of Employment & Training Services (DETS)			
8 AAC 85.010-.510 - Employment Security	440	0.61	84.14
8 AAC 85.810-.842 - Employment Service	5	0	0
8 AAC 88.010-.190 - Displaced Homemakers' Program	24	33	0
8 AAC 99.110-.200 - Alaska Adult Education and Diplomas Under Special Conditions	2	0	0
DETS Total	471	33.61 (7%)	84.14 (25%)
Alaska Labor Relations Agency (ALRA)			
8 AAC 97 Article 1 - Certification	163	2	TBD
8 AAC 97 Article 2 - Unfair Labor Practices	24	1	TBD
8 AAC 97 Article 3 - Impasse	27	0	TBD
8 AAC 97 Article 4 - Right of Nonassociation	49	49	0
8 AAC 97 Article 5 - Procedure for Hearings	41	0	TBD
8 AAC 97 Article 6 - Collective Bargaining Agreement	17	0	TBD
8 AAC 97 Article 7 - General Provisions	105	0	TBD
ALRA Total	423	52 (12.3%)	TBD
Labor Standards & Safety			
Alaska Occupational Safety & Health (AKOSH)			
Title 8 Part 4 Chapter 61 & 62 Occupational Safety and Health:	242	134	TBD
8 AAC 61.020-.090 - Inspections		2	TBD
8 AAC 61.600-.790 - Asbestos Abatement Certification		76	TBD
8 AAC 61.800-.890 - Hazardous Paint		43	TBD
8 AAC 61.1040 - Additional temporary labor camp standards		4	TBD
8 AAC 61.1110 - Alaska Physical Agent Data Sheet		9	TBD

8 AAC 62.010-.070 - Explosive Handlers	31	20	TBD
AKOSH Total	273	154 (57.5%)	
Mechanical Inspection (MI)			
Codes Adopted by Reference	2925	775	TBD
8 AAC 63 - Plumbing Code	6	1	TBD
8 AAC 70 - Electrical Safety Code	29	0	TBD
8 AAC 77 - Elevator Safety Standards	110	0	TBD
8 AAC 78 - Amusement Rides and Tramways	129	0	TBD
8 AAC 80 - Boilers and Unfired Pressure Vessels	280	2	TBD
8 AAC 90 - Plumbers and Electricians	348	2	TBD
MI Total	3,827	780 (20.38%)	
Wage & Hour (W&H)			
8 AAC 05.030-05.040, .300-.305, .315-.330 - Child Labor	312	43	TBD
8 AAC 10.010-.915 - Private Employment Agencies	98	98	TBD
8 AAC 15.102, .125-.126, .907-.908 - Alaska Wages and Hours	351	16	TBD
8 AAC 20.010 - Transportation of Employees	3	0	TBD
8 AAC 30.060-.088 - Public Contracts	200	68	TBD
W&H Total	964	225 (23%)	
Workers' Compensation Division (WCD)			
8 AAC 45.010-.900	WC Total	51	15 (29%) 12 (24%)
Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission (AWCAC)			
8 AAC 57.010-.990	AWCAC Total	168	0 0
Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR)			
8 AAC.98.010 - Plans of Service	0	0	0
8 AAC 98.300-.480 - Business Enterprise Program	43	0	0
8 AAC 98.510-.550 - Confidentiality of Personal Information	3	0	0
8 AAC 98.600-.630 - Hearings and Appeals	16	0	0
8 AAC 98.700 - Order of Selection for Vocational Rehabilitation Services	4	0	0
8 AAC 98.900 - General Provisions	2	0	0
DVR Total	68	0	0
Alaska Workforce Investment Board (AWIB)			
8 AAC 84.010-.090 - Grants Received by AWIB	11	0	0
8 AAC 84.100-.150 - Evaluation of Programs	1	0	0
8 AAC 86.100-.900 - TVEP	7	4	0
8 AAC 87.010-.990 - STEP	9	0	0
AWIB Total	30	4 (13.3%)	0
DOLWD Totals	6,275	1,263.61 (20.14%)	TBD

Division of Employment & Training Services

DETS needs more time to identify additional regulatory changes to ensure maintained compliance with federal requirements. Changes to the Employment Security regulations require federal review. In 2026, DETS will put together the plan to meet the 2027 25% reduction target and submit that for federal review. The results will be presented in the 2027 Regulatory Reform Plan for DETS.

Workers' Compensation Division

WCD is actively engaged with the Department of Law for guidance on adopted by reference materials and regulation drafting. A current regulation project, 2025200455, is in process and staff are researching every regulation for updates and amendments. The expected outcome by the end of 2027 is a 17% reduction in form verbiage, shrinking the guide documentation by 5%, and bulletins by 65%. Currently, it is unknown if any reference materials are discretionary due to the nature of medical coding for diagnostic procedures. The goal for the regulation reduction and clarification project is 30% by the end of 2027, removing up to 50% of the discretionary language.

Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission

AWCAC has one set of regulations at 8 AAC 57.010-.990. These regulations establish the procedures for appeals to the AWCAC. All of the procedural regulations and their discretionary requirements are necessary and there is no plan on making any reductions.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

Please note: 63% of our discretionary requirements are within 8 AAC 98.300-.480 (Business Enterprise Program). Any changes to the Business Enterprise Program regulations require federal review and approval. The division submitted revised regulations to bring 8 AAC 98.300-.480 into alignment with federal law, and those revisions have been accepted by the US Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Rehabilitation Services Administration. However, implementation of those revisions will require a change in statute and are therefore not part of this regulatory reduction. When those discretionary requirements are removed from our count, the new discretionary count will be 25.

Alaska Labor Relations Agency

ALRA needs more time to identify additional regulatory changes to comply with AO 360. ALRA will put together a plan to meet the 2027 25% reduction target that will be reviewed by the Alaska Labor Relations Board. The results will be provided in the 2027 Regulatory Reform Plan.

Alaska Workforce Investment Board

AWIB anticipates new guidance from the Legislature in the 2026 session that will heavily impact our primary state programs, STEP/TVEP. In 2026, AWIB will reevaluate statutory guidance adopted by the Legislature and any resulting regulatory impacts to STEP and TVEP. Based on that review, AWIB will submit an updated plan, as necessary, to meet the cumulative 25% reduction target by the end of 2027.

Stakeholder Engagement

Public Comment Decisional Document for the department is attached.

Division of Employment & Training Services

DETS held eight public meetings offering participation options both in-person and virtually via Teams. The in-person meeting location was Room 104, 3301 Eagle St., Anchorage, AK 99503. To solicit participation from stakeholders and the public at large, DETS used the Online Public Notice system and Gov Delivery lists.

The public notices for the Employment Security regulation topics of [Unemployment Insurance Benefits](#), [Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment \(RESEA\)](#), and [Unemployment Insurance Tax](#) were published 10/6/25. The public notice for the [Employment Service and Adult Education](#) regulation topics was published 10/7/25.

Topics	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
Unemployment Insurance Benefits	10/21/2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	10/29/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Re-employment Services and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA)	10/21/2025 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	10/29/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Unemployment Insurance Tax	10/22/2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	10/29/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Alaska Adult Education (AAE) Program	10/24/2025 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	11/21/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Eligible Training Provider List	10/30/2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	11/28/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
WSD's Employer Services	10/30/2025 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	11/28/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
WSD's Job Seeker Services	11/06/2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	12/05/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
WSD's Job Training Services	11/06/2025 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.	12/05/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.

No stakeholders or members of the public participated in the meetings. However, DETS received five written public comments via email all related to the Employment Security regulations.

Workers' Compensation Division

WCD held three public meetings on regulation reform and contacted known stakeholder groups such as Chambers of Commerce, industry groups, and organized labor groups. A presentation was shared at the October Kid's Chance meeting to insurance industry teams and at the November Alaska Bar Association meeting. Public input and discussion were additionally held at the October AWCB meeting.

All public meetings were noticed by the Online Public Notice system and Gov Delivery lists. Direct notice was provided for all parties that had previously shared feedback or concern with the WCD.

Meeting/Topics	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
Unemployment Insurance Benefits	10/21/2025 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	10/29/2025 @ 5:00 p.m.
Fisherman's Fund	10/20/2025 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	No deadline
Workers' Compensation (Kid's Chance)	10/22/2025 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.	No deadline
Alaska Workers Compensation Board	10/23/2025 10:15 a.m. to 11:15 a.m.	No deadline
Workers' Compensation (Alaska Bar)	11/14/2026 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	No deadline
Workers' Compensation	11/18/2025 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	No deadline
Workers' Compensation	12/16/2025 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	No deadline

Continued engagement is scheduled for 1/8/26, AWCB meeting as regulation reform is on the agenda. The Alaska Bar Association working meeting 1/9/26, for discussion by attorneys involved in workers' compensation. On 1/27/26, a public meeting is scheduled concentrating on reemployment benefits on forms and regulations.

Alaska Workers' Compensation Appeals Commission

AWCAC held a public meeting by Zoom, soliciting comments on the agency's regulations. To solicit participation from stakeholders and the public at large, AWCAC used the Online Public Notice system to publish notice on 9/19/25. We also notified each member of the Alaska Bar as well as insurance carriers active in the workers' compensation market in Alaska. Representatives of one insurance carrier attended by Zoom but offered no comments. There were no other attendees.

Topic	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
Regulations 8 AAC 57.010-.990	11/6/2025 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.	No Deadline

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

DVR held one public meeting via Zoom. To solicit participation from stakeholders and the public at large, DVR used the Online Public Notice system, a GovDelivery distribution list, accessible flyers, and direct outreach to stakeholders.

The public notice for the Vocational Rehabilitation was published 9/29/25. [Solicitation for Public Input – Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Regulatory Revisions](#)

Topic	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
VR Regulations	10/20/2025 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.	10/30/2025 5:00 p.m.

Four stakeholders/members of the public, and eight DVR staff members participated in the call. A sign language interpreter and live captioning were provided to ensure accessibility. One stakeholder offered verbal comments, and one stakeholder submitted written comments via email.

Alaska Labor Relations Agency

ALRA held one public meeting on 10/30/25 and offered virtual participation. Additionally, ALRA had a written comment period which closed 11/7/25. To solicit participation from stakeholders and the public at large, ALRA used the Online Public Notice system and GovDelivery lists.

Topic	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
Regulatory Revisions to 8 AAC 97	10/30/2025 Noon to 1:00 p.m.	11/7/2025 5:00 p.m.

There were no stakeholders or members of the public that participated in the meeting, and there were no written comments by the 11/7/25 deadline.

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health

To solicit participation from stakeholders and the public at large, AKOSH used the Online Public Notice system and Gov Delivery lists. The public notices for all topics in the table below were published 9/17/25.

Topics	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
Title 8 Part 4 Chapter 61 Occupational Safety and Health	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.

Mechanical Inspection

MI solicited participation from stakeholders and the public at large through the Online Public Notice system (OPNS) and Gov Delivery lists. The public notice for the [Solicitation for Public Input-Mechanical Inspection](#) was published 9/17/25 with a deadline for comments of 10/24/25.

Topics	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
8 AAC 63 Plumbing Code	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
8 AAC 70 Electrical Safety Code	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
8 AAC 77 Elevator Safety Standards	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
8 AAC 78 Amusement Rides and Tramways	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
8 AAC 80 Boilers and Unfired Pressure Vessels	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
8 AAC 90 Plumbers and Electricians	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.

MI received five written public comments: four related to Plumbers and Electricians and Boilers, and one related to Unfired Pressure Vessels. The decisional document for the public comments received is attached.

Wage & Hour

To solicit participation from stakeholders and the public at large, WH used the Online Public Notice system and Gov Delivery lists. The public notices for all topics in the table below were published 9/17/25.

Topics	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
Title 8 Chapter 5 Child Labor	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
Title 8 Chapter 10 Private Employment Agencies	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
Title 8 Chapter 15 Alaska Wages and Hours	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
Title 8 Chapter 20 Transportation of Employees	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.
Title 8 Chapter 30 Public Contracts	Written Comments	10/24/2025 5:00 p.m.

WH received one written public comment via email. The recommendation concerned the sick leave regulations in effect as of 9/25/25. The Department does not plan to act on these suggestions in 2026, as the regulation is only three months after implementation, and not enough time has passed to assess its implications.

Alaska Workforce Investment Board

AWIB held one public meeting offering participation options both in-person and virtually via Teams. The in-person meeting location was Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA), 1131 E. International Airport Rd., Anchorage, AK 99518.

To solicit participation from stakeholders and the public at large, AWIB used the Online Public

Notice system, Gov Delivery lists, and our current and past grantee mailing list. Our grantees were the primary solicitation for public comment. We solicited for verbal or written feedback.

AWIB received no stakeholder or public comments relevant to the regulations under review.

Topics	Meeting Date & Time	Public Comment Period Deadline
State Training and Employment Program, Technical Vocational Education Program, and Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Youth Program.	During AWIB Board Meeting – 11/18 & 11/19/25	No Deadline

Proposed Regulatory Reform

Division of Employment & Training Services

DETS will draft and submit two separate regulation packages to the Department of Law in 2026:

- 1) The first will be related to making a permanent change to the 8 AAC 85 Employment Security regulations in alignment with a temporary emergency regulation change that expires on 3/5/26. In November 2025, DETS proposed an emergency regulation change to amend 8 AAC 85.351 to add subsection (g) (9) which allows a deferred work registration for furloughed federal employees out of work as a result of a federal government shutdown. The emergency regulation took effect 11/6/25 and expires 3/5/26. In 2026, DETS plans to make this emergency regulation change permanent.
- 2) The second will be related to the 8 AAC 88 the Displaced Homemakers’ Program. DETS plans to repeal the Displaced Homemakers' Program because the content is no longer relevant to current procedures or program needs. This section of regulations is explicitly for the use of private profit and nonprofit corporations and is unnecessary. The services offered for displaced homemakers are directly facilitated by the division.

Workers’ Compensation Division

- 1) The regulation project 2025200455, which contains 8 AAC 45.083, is being revised to better reflect the Official Alaska Workers’ Compensation Medical Fee Schedule and to comply with Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services billing and diagnosis guidelines. This is under review by the AWCB for adoption and removes several discretionary requirements.
- 2) WCD, with the support of the AWCB, DOL, and industry stakeholders, is conducting an analysis of the entire regulation package in order to establish a simple yet effective package for use in Alaska. This will eliminate the majority of the discretionary portion in the regulations and improve the user experience. This project will continue through 2026, with public involvement scheduled every few months.

Regulations before the AWCB in January 2026 for approval language and will become a regulation project in February 2026. The project will concentrate on process regulations with input from stakeholders and staff, updating language and procedures in regulation to match current advances in technology and operations. Regulations 8 AAC 45.020 through

8 AAC 45.060, 8 AAC 45.065, 8 AAC 45.070, and 8 AAC 45.072 are being revised for this purpose.

Included in the proposed regulation project will be a rewrite of 8 AAC 45.092 in response to public comment to streamline second independent medical evaluations under workers' compensation.

Finally, 8 AAC 45.120 and 8 AAC 45.180 are included in response to a Supreme Court ruling. 8 AAC 45.176 is amended to insert a missed word from an earlier revision, and 8 AAC 45.900 is amended to match Alaska statutes. 8 AAC 45.170 and 8 AAC 45.188 are to be repealed as the regulations only state what is already in statute.

- 3) The second round of regulation work involves reemployment benefits regulations; this section is 8 AAC 45.400 through 8 AAC 45.550. This will fall under a new project number, and public meetings are scheduled beginning late January. The regulations in this group provide guidelines for private rehabilitation specialists working with injured employees and require clear communication between the providers and the division, and a proposed work group plan is under consideration starting now to go through 2026.
- 4) Regulations dealing with medical and indemnity benefits (8 AAC 45.122-.225) will be addressed beginning late 2026 with work finishing in 2027.

Administrative Services Division

- 1) A regulation packet was completed for 8 AAC 95.030, Alaska Exemptions Act. Per AS 09.38.010, the State is required to make periodic upward adjustment of exemptions listed in the Alaska Exemption Act. On 4/28/25, a request for a file opener and preliminary review was submitted and a regulation project number 2025200170 was received. Due to AO 358, the regulations were put on hold. A waiver was submitted for the project, but the department was eventually advised to add the regulation to the Regulatory Reform Plan for approval to continue on with the process.

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

After initial review, the division is unable to reduce their discretionary regulatory requirements because many of these provisions are necessary to ensure compliance with federal regulations, reporting obligations, and program oversight. While discretionary, these requirements support consistent implementation, transparency, accountability, and data integrity, and in some cases reflect long-standing practices relied upon by stakeholders and outlined in policy. Eliminating or modifying them could compromise federal reporting, jeopardize program funding, or create inconsistencies in administration. As an example, while officially a discretionary regulation, regulations establishing timelines are necessary to ensure compliance and consistency with federal data reporting and cannot be changed without compromising the division's federal reports and thus should not be revised.

As the division reviews guidance documents, we will also reassess regulations to ensure that the two are in alignment. If changes to guidance documents warrant changes to regulations, DVR will draft and submit a proposed regulation package to the Department of Law.

For these reasons, the division has determined that reducing these discretionary requirements is not feasible at this time without adversely affecting program operations or compliance obligations.

DVR plans to revise AAC 98.300-.480 Business Enterprise Program as mentioned above. However, this will require a change in statute and is not part of this reduction reform.

Alaska Labor Relations Agency

- 1) ALRA will draft and submit its regulation package to the Department of Law in 2026. Impacted regulations include: 8 AAC 97.010, 8 AAC 97.020, 8 AAC 97.220, 8 AAC 97.305, 8 AAC 97.310, & 8 AAC 97.320. The proposed changes will relate to two areas: eliminating hard copy filing requirements and eliminating language deemed moot under *Janus v. AFSCME*, 585 U.S. 878 (2018).
- 2) After the close of the public comment period, ALRA received four written public comments to change 8 AAC 97.025 and 8 AAC 97.030 to add language that explicitly allows for interest cards to be signed electronically for both petitions to certify and petitions to decertify bargaining units. This change will reduce burdens for those filing petitions by explicitly allowing signatures to be collected electronically, reducing the need for representatives to travel to the field in often remote locations to collect signatures or to have paper signature cards sent via the mail.

Under AS 23.05.380, the ALRA Board adopts and implements regulations. On January 23, 2026, the Board approved moving forward with staff proposed changes driven by Administrative Order 360, and those proposed changes to 8 AAC 97.025 and 8 AAC 97.030 submitted by the public after the initial comment period closed. Consequently, ALRA also proposes to implement changes to 8 AAC 97.025 and 8 AAC 97.030.

Alaska Occupational Safety and Health

- 1) AKOSH will draft and submit one regulation package to the Department of Law in 2026 that contains the following proposed changes in 8 AAC Part 4 Chapters 61 & 62:

8 AAC 61.020-.090 - Inspections:

AKOSH plans to amend inspection regulations to simplify processes, clarify employee notice and confidentiality, and ensure consistent language. These updates will make requirements easier to follow, reduce administrative burdens, and speed up inspections, saving resources for businesses and the Department while improving public confidence and workplace safety.

8 AAC 61.600-.790 - Asbestos Abatement Certification:

AKOSH is moving to amend 8 AAC 61.600-.790 to accept nationally recognized AHERA-approved asbestos abatement training programs in place of requiring state course approval, and remove state-specific background checks, while retaining Alaska's certification process. Current regulations require the Department to approve training courses and conduct background checks already completed under federal standards, creating unnecessary duplication. The amendment aligns Alaska with federal AHERA guidelines (40 C.F.R. 763),

streamlines compliance and reduces administrative burden without compromising safety or oversight.

8 AAC 61.800-.890 - Hazardous Paint:

AKOSH is moving forward to repeal Alaska’s hazardous paint certification regulations (8 AAC 61.800-.890). Federal OSHA standards, adopted in 2012, already include the Hazard Communication Standard and GHS requirements, ensuring worker safety for hazardous paint work, rendering these regulations redundant. With only about 20 licenses issued annually and the supporting study dating back to 1997, these regulations are outdated and provide little benefit. Repeal will eliminate duplication, reduce administrative burden, and align Alaska with current federal standards.

8 AAC 61.1040 - Additional Temporary Labor Camp Standards:

AKOSH is moving to repeal 8 AAC 61.1040 in its entirety and adopt the federal OSHA standard at 29 C.F.R. 1910.142(b)(2), which requires 50 square feet of floor space per occupant and a seven-foot ceiling in temporary labor camps. The change eliminates Alaska’s more restrictive 60-square-foot requirement, reduces regulatory complexity, and ensures consistency with nationally recognized safety standards while maintaining essential health protections.

8 AAC 61.1110 - Alaska Physical Agent Data Sheet:

AKOSH is moving to repeal 8 AAC 61.1110, which requires employers to post Physical Agent Data Sheets (PADS) for hazards like heat, noise, and radiation. This rule is outdated and duplicative because the same information is already addressed under adopted federal standards—OSHA’s Hazard Communication Standard (29 C.F.R. 1910.1200) and ACGIH’s annually updated Threshold Limit Values. Repeal eliminates unnecessary paperwork while ensuring worker safety through current, nationally recognized guidelines.

8 AAC 62.010-.070 - Explosives Handlers:

AKOSH is proposing changes to 8 AAC 62.010-.070, the explosive handler certification rules, to align more closely with federal standards and remove unnecessary state-specific requirements. The revisions would make the ATF federal clearance letter the primary basis for certification, eliminate duplicative state background checks, allow out-of-state and military experience to qualify, clarify renewal timelines, and remove the five-year nonrenewal restriction. Since federal law under 18 U.S.C. 842 and ATF licensing already govern explosive materials, Alaska’s requirements are redundant. Alaska’s certificate simply registers a competent person—recognized by ATF as the “Responsible Person”—for blasting operations. Because applicants already hold ATF clearance, requiring a separate state check adds cost and delay without improving safety. Aligning with ATF standards and recognizing equivalent experience will reduce administrative burden while maintaining safety.

Mechanical Inspection

MI will draft and submit three separate regulation packages to the Department of Law in 2026 as follows:

1) **8 AAC 63 Plumbing Code and 8 AAC 90 Certificate of Fitness:**

The regulation package will update plumbing-related requirements to align with current standards and improve clarity. Key changes include adopting the latest Uniform Plumbing Code, revising permit and inspection processes, removing outdated or irrelevant code references, and creating an Alaska-specific fixture table. It will also simplify licensing and

continuing education requirements, standardize forms and appeals procedures, and clarify definitions to ensure consistency across regulations. The draft package is expected to be completed and submitted for legal review by 6/30/26.

2) **8 AAC 70 Electrical Safety Code and 8 AAC 90 Certificate of Fitness:**

This regulation package will update electrical codes and licensing requirements to improve clarity, consistency, and efficiency. Key changes include adopting the current National Electrical Code, adjusting fees for inflation, simplifying continuing education requirements, standardizing processes such as appeals and applications, and revising definitions and inspection procedures. The package also aims to make regulatory language easier to understand and ensure licensing standards are uniform. MI will prepare the draft regulations and plans to submit to the Department of Law for review by 6/30/26.

3) **8 AAC 80 Boiler and Pressure Vessel Construction Code:**

This regulation package will update requirements for boilers and unfired pressure vessels to align with current industry standards. It will incorporate the latest ASME code, adopt API standards for the Owner-User Program, extend the validity of Boiler Operator certificates, allow electronic storage of boiler certificates, exempt certain low-risk equipment, adjust fees for inflation, and clarify definitions to improve readability and understanding. MI will prepare the draft regulations and plans to submit to the Department of Law for review by 6/30/26.

Wage & Hour

WH will draft and submit three separate regulation packages to the Department of Law in 2026 as follows:

1) **Title 8 AAC 05 Child Labor and 8 AAC 20 Transportation of Employees:**

Wage and Hour seeks to amend regulations to simplify processes and make compliance easier for businesses. Changes include combining the Work Training Certificate with the Student Learner Work Permit, streamlining Entertainment Work Permit requirements, and condensing transportation regulations for clarity. The proposal also aligns the salary basis test with the recent Federal Supreme Court ruling, removes exemptions not authorized by statute, eliminates administrative hearing language, and updates investigative requirements to conform with AS 23.05.060.

2) **8 AAC 15 Alaska Wage and Hour and 8 AAC 10 Private Employment Agencies:**

Wage and Hour seeks to amend the regulations to simplify form requirements, making them easier to understand and comply with. The amendments will align the salary basis test with the recent Federal Supreme Court ruling and remove exemptions not authorized by statute. They will also eliminate administrative hearing language and update investigative requirements to conform with AS 23.05.060. Additionally, the proposal rescinds regulations for private employment agencies, as Wage and Hour have no record of a license ever being requested or issued for this type of agency, rendering these regulations unnecessary.

3) **8 AAC 30 Public Contracts:**

Wage and Hour is seeking to repeal regulations implementing AS 36.10.150 (resident-hire

preference) in **8 AAC 30**. This repeal aligns with the Attorney General’s 10/3/19 opinion declaring the statute unconstitutional. Enforcement has ceased, and repeal will remove unenforceable requirements and prevent confusion.

Alaska Workforce Investment Board

AWIB will draft and submit one regulation package to the Department of Law in 2026 as follows:

- 1) Repeal 8 AAC 86.120. Required match for technical and vocational education grants. This is a match requirement for TVEP recipients as the program was originally envisioned. However, since becoming a permanent legislative grant to named recipients, the match has been unenforceable as written and would need further guidance from the legislature to maintain this requirement for grantees. AWIB intends to have this proposal drafted and submitted to the Department of Law by 6/30/26. Repeal of 8 AAC 86.120 will reduce four discretionary regulatory requirements from AWIB’s baseline.

Much of AWIB’s remaining discretionary regulations relate to grantee performance and accountability requirements necessary to administer state training programs. As mentioned

earlier, we anticipate new guidance from the 2026 Legislature this year on STEP/TVEP and are prepared to adjust accordingly.

Approved Deadline Extensions

The **DOLWD** does not have any approved extensions of time granted for specific regulatory reform deadlines.

Submission

This proposed regulatory plan for the DOLWD has been reviewed and approved by the Department of Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner.

Approved

Not Approved

Signature: *Cathy Muñoz*
Cathy Muñoz, Commissioner

Date: 5/22/2026