



U.S. Department of Labor  
Office of Workers' Compensation

Date: December 11, 2013

WAIVER NUMBER: 2014-06

**WAIVER**  
**Issued Under Section 1(e) of the**  
**DEFENSE BASE ACT**

The Defense Base Act, codified at 42 U.S.C. 1651 et seq, permits the Secretary of Labor, in the exercise of his/her discretion, upon the recommendation of the head of any department or agency of the United States, to waive the application of the Defense Base Act with respect to any contract, subcontract or subordinate contract, work location under such contracts, or classification of employees.

A. **Requesting Agency**

A waiver has been requested by the Department of Defense, Other Agencies have joined in the request for this geographic waiver.

B. **Scope of Waiver**

This waiver of the Defense Base Act applies to

1. The classification of employees set forth in Section C below
2. All contracts, subcontracts or subordinate contracts;
3. All agencies of the United States ;
4. Work to be performed at any location in **Belgium**;
5. Work which would have otherwise been covered by the Defense Base Act,

C. **Classification of Employees**

All employees covered under compulsory workers' compensation laws of **Belgium**.

D. **Conditions of Waiver**

1. **This Waiver does not apply** to any employees who:
  - a. Are citizens of the United States of America; or,
  - b. Are lawful residents of the United States of America; or,
  - c. Were hired in the United States of America.

2. **This waiver covers** only those employees that are covered under the laws of **Belgium** relating to Compulsory Employer provided accidental injuries, illnesses and deaths as identified in Section C and where the employer is in full conformance in all respects with all requirements and regulations of those laws at the time of any injury, illness, or death.
3. This waiver excludes employers otherwise covered by the Defense Base Act, with respect only to the classification of employees specified in Sections C. and D.2 above, from all rights and obligations under the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act, as extended by the Defense Base Act, and in particular from:
  - a. The exclusive liability provision under 42 U.S.C. 1651(c);
  - b. The obligation to secure payment of compensation under 33 U.S.C. 932(a)(1);
  - c. The penalties for failure to secure such payment under 33 U.S.C. 938(a);
  - d. The penalties for failure to report claims under 33 U.S.C. 930(a); and,
  - e. The provisions of 33 U.S.C. 905(a).
4. For any employees for whom the applicability of the Defense Base Act has been waived, the employer is responsible for providing for those employees the same protection as that provided by the War Hazards Compensation Act (42 U.S.C. 1701, et seq) except that the level of such benefits shall conform to any law or international agreement controlling the benefits to which those employees may be entitled.

#### E. **Separability and Termination**

If the applicability of this Waiver to any employer or employee is held to be invalid, the applicability to other employers or employees shall not be affected thereby. On expiration, modification, termination, suspension or revocation of this waiver, all rights or obligations under it shall continue for all injuries, disease, or death arising prior to that date.

#### F. **Previous Waivers**

All previous Waivers granted with respect to **Belgium** are hereby revoked and superseded by this Waiver. Any rights which may have accrued under previous waivers are covered under this Waiver.

**G. Grant of Waiver and Effective Date**

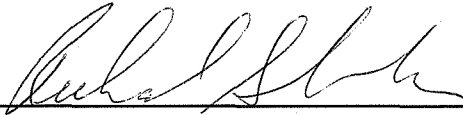
Pursuant to the authority granted to the Secretary of Labor under 42 U.S.C. 1651(e), waiver of the application of the Defense Base Act is hereby granted to

- All United States Government Agencies

with respect to work performed in **Belgium** , and subject to the conditions listed above, for a period of one calendar year unless earlier modified, terminated, suspended, or revoked.

This waiver is effective January 1, 2014 and expires on December 31, 2015.

**Issued by the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs  
U.S. Department of Labor, Washington, D.C.**



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**ANTONIO A. RIOS, Director  
Division of Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation**