

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Department of Labor and Industry

In the Matter of Lehi Lebaron Vazquez

**ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
WITH PENALTY**

I. ORDER

The Commissioner of the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Commissioner”) issues this Order against Lehi Lebaron Vazquez (“Respondent”).

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 326B.701, subd. 6; 326B.082, subd. 7; and 326B.083 (2014), the Commissioner hereby assesses against Respondent a monetary penalty of \$1,000.

The Commissioner also hereby orders Respondent to cease and desist from violating the laws cited in the “Conclusions of Law” section of this Administrative Order. Specifically, the Commissioner orders Respondent, individually or doing business in any business name, to cease and desist from performing public or private sector commercial or residential building construction or improvement services for which licensure or registration in the Construction Contractor Registration Program (“Registration Program”) is required in the state of Minnesota.

The Commissioner takes the above action based upon the following Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law:

II. FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Respondent is the sole principal and chief manager of LVZ Drywall, LLC (“LDL”), a contractor that was registered with the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (“Department”) through the Registration Program, registration No. IR679017, until its registration expired on December 31, 2015. The business address LDL provided when it registered is: 7430 15th St. W., Apt.# 310., Apple Valley, MN 55124.
2. On October 16, 2015, the Department opened an investigation of Respondent and LVZDL based on information that indicated that Respondent and his company may have engaged in violations of the statutes and rules governing the classification of workers in the construction industry.
3. On December 3, 2015, a Department investigator sent Respondent and LDL a subpoena duces tecum requiring the production of records and other information relating to Respondent and LDL’s contractors, subcontractors and employees.
4. On December 23, 2015, Respondent sent a partial answer to the subpoena including copies of LDL’s 2013 and 2014 business tax returns.

5. On January 14, 2016, the Department investigator sent Respondent and LDL a letter requesting a complete answer to the subpoena duces tecum including LDL's copies of IRS forms 1099 issued to its subcontractors for 2013, 2014 and 2015.
6. Respondent and LDL failed to respond to this request for information.
7. After reviewing the partial response to the subpoena that Respondent provided, the Department investigator determined that in 2013 and 2014, Respondent and LDL hired and paid LCP Drywall, LLC and Vazquez Drywall, LLC for the performance of building construction or improvement services and treated them as independent contractors even though they were not licensed by the Department or registered in the Registration Program at the time they performed construction services on Respondent's behalf.
8. As part of its investigation, the Department obtained evidence that Respondent performed services for Absolute Drywall, Inc ("ADI") Through LDL and was paid \$137,401.62 between September 2012 and March 2014. Because neither Respondent nor LDL was registered when they began performing services for ADI, Respondent is deemed to have been an employee of ADI for that period of time.

III. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. Respondent committed a violation of applicable law. §§ 181.723 and 326B.082, subd. 11(b)(1) (2014).
2. Respondent failed to provide a complete answer to a subpoena issued by the Commissioner in violation of Minn. Stat. §§ 326B.082, subd. 11(b) (6) (2014).
3. Because LDL was not licensed by the Department or registered with the Registration Program when it provided services to ADI between September 2012 and March 2014, Respondent is deemed to have been an employee of ADI during that period of time. Minn. Stat. § 181.723, subs. 3 and 4(b) (2014).

IV. DETERMINATION OF PENALTY AMOUNT

In determining the amount of the penalty, the Commissioner considered: the extent of deviation from compliance; whether the violation was willful; the gravity of the violation; the number of violations; whether there is a history of past violations; whether Respondent gained economic benefit in not complying with the law; and other factors as justice may require.

V. REQUEST FOR HEARING

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2014), Respondent shall have 30 days after issuance of this Administrative Order to request a hearing. A request for hearing must be in writing and must be served on or faxed to the Commissioner at the following address or fax number by the deadline.

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry
CCLD – Enforcement Services Unit
Attention: Charlie Durenberger
443 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Fax number: (651) 284-5746

The date on which a request for hearing is served by mail shall be the postmark date on the envelope in which the request for hearing is mailed. The request for hearing must specifically state the reasons for seeking review of the order or notice. If the request for hearing is served by fax it cannot exceed 15 pages in length and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. central time on the last day permitted for serving a request. Respondent's review rights are more thoroughly described in Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subds. 4 and 8 (2014).

If the Respondent submits to the Commissioner a timely request for hearing, the Administrative Order shall be stayed unless otherwise ordered by a judge, and a contested case hearing will be conducted. The contested case procedures are set out in chapter 14 of Minnesota Statutes, the Rules of the Office of Administrative Hearings, Minn. Rules 1400.5010 to 1400.8400 (2015), and Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2014). These materials may be purchased from the Minnesota Book Store, telephone (651) 297-3000, and are also available at www.revisor.mn.gov.

VI. EFFECT OF FINAL ORDER


If Respondent does not request a hearing or Respondent's request for a hearing is not served on or faxed to the Commissioner by the deadline specified in the "Request for Hearing" section of this Administrative Order, this Administrative Order shall become a final order of the Commissioner and will not be subject to review by any court or agency. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 8 (2014).

The monetary penalty assessed upon Respondent by this Administrative Order is due and payable on the date the Administrative Order becomes final. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.083, subd. 3(a) (2014).

When this Administrative Order becomes final, the Commissioner may file and enforce any unpaid portion of the penalty as a judgment in district court without further notice or additional proceedings. *See* Minn. Stat. §§ 16D.17 and 326B.083, subd. 2 (2014). Failure to pay a monetary penalty owed may result in the revocation, suspension, or denial of any or all licenses, permits, certificates, and registrations issued by the Commissioner. *See* Minn. Stat. § 326B.082, subd. 17 (2014). Also, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 16D.13 (2014), Respondent(s) is/are hereby notified that thirty (30) days after the date this Administrative Order becomes final, simple interest computed in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 16D.13, subd. 2 (2014) will begin to accrue on the unpaid portion of the penalty.

Dated: 8/10/16

KEN B. PETERSON
Commissioner

BY: 
CHARLIE DURENBERGER
Director of Licensing and Enforcement
Construction Codes and Licensing Division
Department of Labor and Industry