



NEWS RELEASE

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FORMER SENTRY MANUFACTURING EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT EXTENSION

Special Status Granted to Laid-off Company Employees Under Trade Act of 1974

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Displaced workers of Sentry Manufacturing Company in Chickasha who have exhausted their unemployment benefits are now eligible for the Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program. In a recent U.S. Department of Labor ruling, former Sentry Manufacturing workers, including those leased through Manpower, were found to meet all requirements to receive TRA according to the Trade Act of 1974 (19 USC 2273). The TRA program provides additional unemployment compensation to individuals who lose their jobs or a significant portion of their work hours due to increased imports or a shift in production out of the country. The goal is to help laid-off workers return to suitable employment as quickly as possible.

In order to qualify for Trade Readjustment Assistance, workers must meet three criteria:

- 1) workers must be laid off or threatened with layoff;
- 2) sales or production for the employer must have decreased; and
- 3) an increase in imports of products like or directly competitive with products made by the firm must contribute to layoffs or the threat of layoffs.

An added condition is that workers must be enrolled in training either eight (8) weeks after certification or 16 weeks after their last qualifying separation from adversely affected employment. The state may also grant a waiver of training enrollment to suspend this qualification for some individuals.

The USDOL report concludes “all workers of Sentry Manufacturing Company, including onsite leased workers of Manpower, Chickasha, Oklahoma, who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after April 28, 2004, through two years from the date of certification, are eligible to apply for adjustment assistance...” The first day of eligibility for TRA (date of certification) is May 16, 2005. Separated employees who would like to take advantage of this assistance should contact their nearest Workforce Oklahoma Center at 1-888-980-WORK (9675).

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