



MEDIA RELEASE

Communications Office

Former Workers of Hoffmaster/Brooklace in West Haven Eligible to Apply for Trade Act Benefits

WETHERSFIELD, Aug. 24 – Former workers of Hoffmaster/Brooklace in West Haven who produced disposable paper table top products were certified on July 14, 2010 as eligible to apply for federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The Connecticut Labor Department is mailing an eligibility notice regarding the benefits to all adversely affected employees and is providing information on how to apply for benefits. Employees eligible to apply for federal benefits are those who are or will be totally or partially separated from employment due to lack of work on or after Jan. 15, 2009 and on or before Jan. 15, 2011.

Available assistance may include training; income support in the form of Trade Readjustment Allowances (TRA); job search and relocation allowances for qualified workers who seek or obtain employment outside their normal commuting areas; and participation in the Health Coverage Tax Credit (HCTC) program, covering 80% of qualified health insurance premiums. Individuals 50 years of age and older who return to lower-paying work may be eligible to receive Reemployment Trade Adjustment Assistance (RTAA) wage subsidies. Adversely affected incumbent workers, individually threatened with total or partial separation as of the date of certification and through Jan. 15, 2011 may access reemployment services, including TAA training, prior to layoff.

Workers who qualify yet do not receive eligibility information are urged to contact their nearest Labor Department *CTWorks* Center for information and assistance. Those who need to apply for unemployment benefits are reminded that claims can now be taken over the telephone or Internet. Information can be found on the Department of Labor's Web site at www.ct.gov.

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