

No. 124

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## INCREASE IN ANNUAL LEAVE ENTITLEMENT

The Department of Trade and Industry announced last week that the minimum holiday entitlement under the Working Time Regulations 1998 will increase from 20 days per annum to 28 days.

It is common practice with some employers' that the eight bank holidays form part of workers' 20 day annual leave entitlement. This change effectively requires employers' to add the eight bank holidays to the 20 days annual leave entitlement.

In order to assist employers, the statutory annual leave entitlement will be increased in two stages. The first rise will take effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 raising the annual leave entitlement from 20 days to 24 days. The second rise will take effect on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2008, when the 28 days entitlement will come into effect.

The second round of consultation is due to close on the 13<sup>th</sup> April 2007 in relation to the implementation of these changes.

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