



News Release

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Workers at Harman/Becker Automotive Systems in Martinsville eligible for federal aid

INDIANAPOLIS (August 3, 2007) – The Indiana Department of Workforce Development announced today that the U.S. Department of Labor has ruled that former employees of Martinsville’s Harman/Becker Automotive Systems, Inc. are eligible to receive federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA).

The TAA program, which is administered at the state level by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, is made available to workers who are displaced due to foreign imports or shifts in production out of the country. In order for dislocated workers to be eligible for TAA benefits, a company executive, union representative or three former employees must file a petition with the Department of Labor and it must be approved before benefits can be released.

The Department of Labor determined that a decline in the employment at Harman/Becker Automotive Systems is related to a shift in production of automotive speakers to a country which is a party to a free trade agreement with the United States.

The findings were certified on July 20, 2007. With the ruling, any employee who has been or will be totally or partially separated from employment on or after June 28, 2006 through July 20, 2009 is eligible to apply for adjustment assistance.

The TAA program provides a variety of benefits and services to help unemployed workers prepare for and obtain suitable employment. Workers may be eligible for a variety of re-employment services, job search and relocation allowances and training. In addition, weekly trade re-adjustment allowances may be payable to eligible workers following the exhaustion of unemployment insurance benefits.

Additionally, the Department of Labor issued a certification for alternative trade adjustment assistance (ATAA) for separated older workers at the Martinsville facility. It was found that a significant number of workers at the company age 50 or over possess skills that are not easily transferable and that competitive conditions within the industry are adverse. Older workers may choose between regular TAA benefits or a wage subsidy of 50% of the difference between their new salary and old salary, up to \$10,000.

Eligible parties may obtain information at their local WorkOne center. A listing of all of the centers can be found at http://www.in.gov/dwd/employers/workone_centers.html

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