

New Ways to Work at McCormick Place



For half a century,

McCormick Place has built a reputation as the country's premier destination for meetings and conventions. We've offered our customers the very best in location, marketing, service and amenities. And we've dedicated ourselves to continually making the Chicago experience better.

In 2010, we pushed for historic legislation that would ensure we had a reputation for one more thing – affordability. We listened to our customers, and the collaboration that followed was unprecedented. Broad public support from elected officials throughout the state helped pass into law what can only be described as a game changer.

Chicago recognizes the importance of this industry. We've changed our business model to not only drive down costs, but to put an end to exclusivity and provide greater choices for our customers to do business. Our track record as a destination is proven. With these historic changes, we're proud to provide the opportunity to take advantage of all McCormick Place has to offer to more people than ever before.



Labor Changes Exhibitor Rights

One of the biggest changes happening at McCormick Place is the work that customers can do for themselves. Our exhibitor rights now allow for true cost savings without requiring the use of paid labor hours or the billing of contractors.

Among the changes, exhibitors and exhibitors' employees now have the right to set up and dismantle booths of any size themselves, provided it is a simple set-up with the use of hand tools and a ladder. Power hand tools are also now permitted. Inside the booth, exhibitors are then allowed to plug in and operate electrical equipment, computers and audio-visual devices, as well as reposition items on their own.

For even greater flexibility, materials can now be loaded and unloaded in a designated area

from a privately owned vehicle with the use of a dolly or a non-motorized cart.

Work Rules

Along with new exhibitor rights, McCormick Place is changing how rates will be charged for the work that's being done. The new work rules provide events with increased flexibility in scheduling labor as well as a consistency across all labor unions on how the rules apply. Ultimately, these rules will lower costs for everyone doing business here.

The new rules state that:

- Monday through Friday, from 6am to 10pm, the first 8 hours of labor will be billed at straight-time.
- On Saturday, the first 8 hours are straight-time and a half.
- Straight-time and a half will be charged for each hour after the initial 8-hour period and double-time will be charged for work between midnight and 6am.

- Sunday and State/Federal Holidays, double straight-time will be charged for any hours worked.

In addition, the number of stewards are now reduced to one per jurisdiction per building per event, and all will be working stewards. Exhibitors also now have the right to call labor by name.

As you can see, these new work rules give events much more control over how and when they want to use labor. This will undoubtedly lead to greater savings overall.



What's New

Electrical Services

Another big change at McCormick Place is that FOCUS One will no longer act as the exclusive provider of electrical services. Show managers will now

be allowed to retain an electrical contractor of their choosing based on a predefined list provided by McCormick Place. Contractors will submit bids, but the ultimate choice lies in the hands of the customer.

Food Services

Finally, McCormick Place is reviewing all food contracts with an eye toward lowering costs for both show organizers and attendees. Under the new rules, the service rate will not exceed the costs of providing the service.



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