OKLAHOMA EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSION

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: Tammy Wood ◆ Office: (405) 557-7129 or Donna Duke ◆ Office: (405) 557-5376

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FORMER SKF SEALING SOLUTIONS Hobart OK EMPLOYEES ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT EXTENSION

Special Status Granted to Laid-off Company Employees by U.S. Department of Labor

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK – Displaced workers of SKF Sealing Solutions A Subsidiary of SKF USA, Inc. Hobart OK have been ruled eligible for the Trade Act program by the USDOL. Established by the Trade Act of 1974 (19USC 2273), Trade Act benefits provide assistance to those who lose jobs or significant work hours because of increased imports or a shift in production out of the country. The Trade Readjustment Assistance (TRA) program provides additional unemployment compensation to individuals who are in full time Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) occupational training. The goal is to help laid-off workers return to suitable employment as quickly as possible.

In order to seek certification as a Trade-Impacted Company, 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.

Applicants who qualify for TAA and TRA have a limited amount of time after certification or qualifying separation from adversely affected employment to apply for benefits. The state may also grant a waiver of training enrollment to suspend this qualification for some individuals.

The USDOL report concludes “all workers of SKF Sealing Solutions A Subsidiary of SKF USA, Inc. Hobart, OK including on-site leased workers from Express Employment Professionals Hobart OK who became totally or partially separated from employment on or after **October 23, 2014** through two years from the date of certification (12/24/15) are eligible to apply for Trade Adjustment Assistance…” Separated employees who want to apply for Trade Act benefits should contact their nearest Workforce Oklahoma Center at 1-888-980-WORK (9675).

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