

## Frequently Asked Questions

Before reading the FAQ's we recommend reading the Basic Assumptions and Correction Factor documents in the WebLEM.

**Question:** How is a labor unit expressed?

**Answer:** The "Labor Unit" in the LEM is expressed in terms of Man Hours to install a unit of material (such as "per" linear foot of pipe) or an individual item (such as "per" fitting or "per" valve) or an individual activity such as welding one joint (Work Activity Method).

**Question:** What is included in a unit of labor?

**Answer:** In the component method, a labor unit includes labor hours for unloading, stockpiling, distributing, joining, erecting and normal pressure testing. In the Work Activity Method, some of these activities are broken out individually.

**Question:** Do the labor units include X-ray quality welds?

**Answer:** Labor to perform X-ray quality welding is not included in the labor units and must be taken in consideration separately when estimating. Please refer to the Correction Factors document.

**Question:** Does the labor units include purge?

**Answer:** The labor units do not include purge, which must be taken into consideration separately. Please refer to the Miscellaneous Labor Operations.

**Question:** Can labor units be applied to prefabrication?

**Answer:** Labor units are developed based on field assembly. Any savings resulting from shop fabrication would have to be reflected by adding a productivity multiplier to the labor units.

**Question:** Do I have to add labor units for cutting, beveling, and threading or welding a standard length pipe?

**Answer:** In the Component Method, the labor unit for installing one standard length of pipe includes one joint, which includes the cutting, beveling, threading and welding. Therefore, no additional labor per standard length of pipe is required. For the Work Activity Method, each of these activities is considered individually.

**Question:** Do the labor units include the installation of the coupling?

**Answer:** In the Component Method, the labor units do include the installation of the coupling. For the Work Activity Method, this activity is considered separately.

**Question:** Do the labor units include the installation of the hanger?

**Answer:** The pipe installation labor units do not include the installation of hangers. The labor unit to install the hangers must be taken into consideration separately.

**Question:** Do the labor units include pressure testing?

**Answer:** The Component Method includes one system test at 1-1/2 times the operating pressure. This does not include flushing of the system. For the Work Activity Method, this activity is considered separately. Does not include special testing requirements.

**Question:** Can the WebLEM committee suggest a labor factor to be applied to the published units specific for my job?

**Answer:** The WebLEM committee does not advise on this.

**Question:** How do I get labor units published in the WebLEM for a product my company just developed?

**Answer:** For a product to be considered for inclusion in the LEM, it must meet the following criteria:

1. The item must be available commercially for a period of at least two years.
2. The item must be nationally available to all members for the sizes listed in the product literature.
3. The product must be involved in work that is typically executed by plumbers and/or pipefitters.
4. The MCAA membership must have an interest or need for the labor units related to the product.
5. Any new item must be specifically different than other items currently in the LEM from the standpoint of labor units.
6. Naming of all items contained in the LEM will be a generic description of the material or joining method to avoid commercialism as much as reasonably possible.