

Rules for Workers in the Foundry and Engineering Works of the Royal Overseas Trading Company, Berlin, 1844

1) The normal working day begins at all seasons at 6 AM precisely and ends, after the usual break of half an hour for breakfast, an hour for dinner, and half an hour for tea, at 7 PM, and it shall be strictly observed. ... Workers arriving 2 minutes late shall lose half an hour's wages; whoever is more than 2 minutes late may not start work until after the next break, or at least shall lose his wages until then. Any disputes about the correct time shall be settled by the clock mounted above the gatekeeper's lodge.

6) No worker may leave his place of work otherwise than for reasons connected with his work.

7) All conversation with fellow-workers is prohibited; if any worker requires information about his work, he must turn to the overseer, or to the particular fellow-worker designated for the purpose.

12) It goes without saying that all overseers and officials of the firm shall be obeyed without questions, and shall be treated with due deference. Disobedience will be punished by dismissal.