

Worker's Compensation
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Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

INS #	456
Date	December 16, 2005
Program	Claims Handling
Type	Procedure-New Form
Replaces	None

To: Claims Handling Offices for Insurance Carriers and Self Insured Employers
From: Frances Huntley-Cooper, Division Administrator
Subject: Mailing of new Worker's Compensation Wage Information document will begin in January 2006

Purpose: To inform claim handling offices that beginning January 2006 the Worker's Compensation Division will mail a new Worker's Compensation Wage Information document to workers receiving Worker's Compensation benefits.

Background: Worker's Compensation Wage Information documents are explanations to workers of the wages and hours used to compute their worker's compensation disability benefit rates. The new documents will be sent to all injured workers who file lost-time, payable claims which the Division receives from their insurers after January 1, 2006 except to those whose rates are based on maximum wages or more.

This change was prompted by actions of the Council for Worker's Compensation in its recent deliberations over recommendations for new legislation. The Council members agreed that the Division should mail these informational notices using employers' wage information submitted by insurers to the Division for purposes of monitoring correct benefit rate calculations.

Many claims require extensive investigation of wages earned and hours worked before the correct benefit rates are established. For some claims, there are changes in the wage information used to compute rates. When this happens a "Corrected Worker's Compensation Wage Information" explanation will be mailed to the worker.

For purposes of inquiries by injured workers who receive these wage information notices, the name, address and phone number of the claims handling office responsible for the claim will be provided on the notices. Claims handling offices are expected to respond to questions or disputes about hours and wages and how the benefit rates were computed.

A sample wage information notification document is enclosed with this letter. Documents will contain the claims handling office claim number for identification purposes when responding to inquiries.

Action Requested: Ensure that claims handling office personnel are familiar with this form and can respond to inquiries that may arise after workers begin receiving the informational notices.

Inquiries: For concerns or questions, contact Lee Shorey at (608) 267-9407.

Enclosures: Sample of the Worker's Compensation Wage Information document (WKC-15021-E).