

Worker's Compensation Insurance Letter

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State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development

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To: Insurance Carriers, Self Insured Employers and Claims Handling Offices
From: Frances Huntley-Cooper, Division Administrator
Subject: Worker's Compensation 2008 Rate Changes & Mileage Reimbursement Increase

Purpose: Announce 2008 maximum rates effective January 1, 2008 and increased mileage reimbursement rate effective 12/1/07.

Background: Wisconsin's maximum Worker's Compensation rate is \$805 per week for temporary total disability, permanent total disability and death benefits for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2008 and before January 1, 2009. The new average weekly wage used to compute the maximum rate is \$1207.50.

Using this new wage raises the maximum death benefit for fatal injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2008 to \$241,500.

The maximum weekly indemnity rate for permanent partial disability will remain at \$262 for injuries occurring on or after January 1, 2008.

The 2007 maximum limit increases by 2.3% to \$1392 for services provided to worker's compensation claimants by private vocational rehabilitation specialists. This new rate applies regardless of the date of injury. When the Department of Workforce Development's Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) is unable to provide services to eligible injured workers, insurers are required to pay the reasonable and necessary vocational rehabilitation costs including the costs of services provided by the vocational rehabilitation specialists in the private sector.

In accordance with ss. 102.42(2)(b) and 102.61(1) and (1m)(c) Stats., the mileage reimbursement rate for worker's compensation claims has increased from \$0.425 to \$0.465 for travel to obtain treatment or attend vocational rehabilitation training occurring on or after December 1, 2007.

Additional changes including increases in the permanent partial disability rate and supplemental benefits will be announced when those provisions become effective.

Action Requested: Please inform all claim handlers of these changes.

Inquiries: A chart with detailed benefit payment information for 2008 is available on our web site at: <http://www.dwd.state.wi.us/dwd/publications/wc/WKC-9572-P.pdf>

If you have any questions, please contact us at (608) 266-1340.

Reference: Insurance Letters 466