

**IDAHO INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION
CLAIMS AND BENEFITS DEPARTMENT**

GUIDANCE MEMORANDUM

RE: IDAPA 17.02.04.281 Conversion of PPI rating to whole person

The purpose of this memorandum is to clarify how administrative staff of the Idaho Industrial Commission's Claims and Benefits department will apply the conversion of single rating of body part to whole person, under IDAPA 17.02.04.281.

IDAPA 17.02.04.281 states that when converting from body part ratings to whole person ratings, the percentage shall "be converted to the exact percentage of the whole man."

The AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment contains tables for converting body part ratings to whole person, but they are not mathematically accurate. The Guides do not result in a conversion to the exact percentage, and in some cases can skew the benefits drastically. For example, a 90% PPI of the great toe would result in about 38 weeks of benefits. If converted to whole person, (4%), only 20 weeks of benefits will be paid. Claimant loses 18 weeks of benefits. Or, a 25% little finger PPI converted to a 2% whole person PPI would increase benefits from 3.5 weeks to 10 weeks. Obviously, it is not an exact conversion and does not comply with IDAPA 17.02.04.281. It is important to use the exact conversion so that a party cannot attempt to manipulate the amount of benefits paid by applying the AMA Guides.

After considering IDAPA 17.02.04.281, the administrative policy of the Idaho Industrial Commission shall be as follows:

- 1. When a body part is rated for impairment by a physician, the body part closest to the injury will be used to determine benefits, even if the physician has also rated an additional level, or the whole person.**
- 2. If the worker sustains two injuries, one of which is listed in the statutory schedules (I.C. 72-426 & I.C. 72-428), the ratings will not be combined using the AMA Guides. The statutory benefit will be paid, and the remaining benefit will be calculated to the exact percentage.**