BEFORE THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF IDAHO

JULIE YATES,

Claimant,

v.

ENCODER PRODUCTS COMPANY INC.,

Employer,

and

TRAVELERS PROPERTY CASUALTY COMPANY OF AMERICA,

Surety,
Defendants.

IIC No. 2022-004939

ORDER GRANTING INTEREST AWARD

**FILED AUGUST 7, 2026
IDAHO INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION**

Before the Industrial Commission is Claimant Julie Yates's Motion for Payment of Interest (July 9, 2026). This motion seeks interest on awards granted to Claimant on March 3, 2025. Clmnt. Mot. for Payment of Interest at 1. Defendants timely responded on July 15, 2026. Claimant timely replied on July 23, 2026.[1]

For the following reasons, the Commission GRANTS Claimant's Motion for the Payment of Interest.

BACKGROUND

On March 3, 2025, the Commission awarded Claimant an unspecified amount in medical benefits and temporary disability payments. Mar. Order at 1 (Mar. 3, 2025). On March 21, 2025,

[1] The Commission reminds counsel of their obligations of professionalism. This adjudication process is a setting due the respect of decorum and decency toward opposing parties. Insults toward opposing parties and especially opposing counsel go beyond zealous advocation and are unbecoming of this setting.

Defendants timely filed a Motion for Reconsideration. The Commission issued an order denying reconsideration on July 21, 2025.

Surety Travelers Property Casualty Company of America issued payment for temporary disability benefits totaling $130,973.36 starting on August 30, 2025. Defs. Aff. in Opp'n ¶ 6 (Jul. 15, 2025). It was received and deposited on September 2, 2025. Clmnt. Mot. for Payment of Interest at 2. Additionally, Surety has been making monthly temporary disability benefits and permanent disability benefits to Claimant since that time. Defs. Resp. at 9 (Jul. 15, 2025). Surety issued payment for medical benefits amounting to $576,539.48 on October 10, 2025. Defs. Aff. in Opp'n ¶ 4. This payment was received by Claimant on October 14, 2025.

On July 9, 2026, Claimant filed the instant motion seeking interest due to Surety's alleged delays in delivering payment unto the Claimant. Clmnt. Mot. for Payment of Interest at 1.

DISCUSSION

Claimant is due interest on past awards in an amount totaling $9,268.48. Interest may only accrue on awards that are reduced to a sum certain or is readily ascertainable. *See Vawter v. United Postal Service, Inc.*, No. IC 2010-000114, 2012 WL 7008859, at 8 (Idaho Ind. Comm'n Oct. 12, 2012). Idaho Code § 72-734 "specifically provides that interest shall accrue from the date of the Commission's decision and award. Therefore, delays which may have been occasioned by mailing the approved award or by mailing the payment check or by administrative delays encountered by the surety do not serve to mitigate the surety's liability. . . ." *Hendrix v. Kodiak America, LLC*, IIC 2020-016090, at 2-3 (Idaho Ind. Comm'n Sep. 22, 2023). Unlike other areas of law, under § 72-734, interest only ceases to accrue when received by the recipient. *Id.* at 3. Furthermore, interest will begin to accrue immediately, starting on the date that the Commission issues a decision and award. *Id.* at 2-3. But, due to the unusual circumstances of this case, the Commission granted

Defendants until August 20, 2025, to deliver payment unto Claimant before interest began to accrue. Order on Att'y Fees at 13 (Jul. 21, 2025).

The amounts in question were subject to the accrual of interest because they were readily ascertainable. Defendant opposes Claimant's Motion primarily arguing that the award amounts required too much coordination to readily calculate. Defs. Resp. at 5-6. However, the temporary disability benefits amount was calculated by Surety from information it already possessed, *Id.* at 9, and the amount of past medical benefits was not only provided to Defendants before hearing in Claimant's Rule 10 Exhibits and Disclosures, Clmnt. Reply at 3 (Jul. 23, 2026), but also itemized and included as Exhibit B in Claimant's filings with the Commission and the Defendants on March 28, 2025. Ex. B (Mar. 28, 2025). Defendants either had all amounts required to calculate the proper amounts or were given the exact amount well in advance of the grace period granted by the Commission. It is unclear what exactly Defendants required that was not obtained within 170 days of the Commission's decision and award. Accordingly, Defendants' arguments that the amounts in question were not readily ascertainable are unpersuasive. Therefore, Claimant is entitled to statutory interest under § 72-734 for every day that the award went unpaid beginning on August 20, 2025.

Interest accrues daily at an amount equal to the sum of 5% and the base rate at the time of the judgement. Idaho Code § 72-734 (citing Idaho Code § 28-22-104(2)). This amount applies to judgements and the consecutive twelve months. *Id*. The base rate at the time of judgement, March 3, 2025, was 5.125% and applies to all interest pertinent to the instant case. Interest ceases to accrue on the date that the payment is received. *Hendrix*, IIC 2020-016090, at 3. This means that interest on the temporary disability benefits award accrued from August 20, 2025, to September 1, 2025, inclusive.[2] Interest on the medical benefits award accrued from August 20, 2025, to October 13, 2025, inclusive.[3] The accrued interest on the temporary disability benefits award amounts to $472.31.[4] The accrued interest on the medical benefits is $8,796.17.[5] Accordingly, the Commission awards a total of $9,268.48 in interest to Claimant.[6]

CONCLUSION

Pursuant to § 72-734, Claimant is entitled to interest on the March 3, 2025 awards in an amount totaling $9,268.48. Pursuant to Idaho Code § 72-718, this decision is final and conclusive as to all matters adjudicated.

---

[2] Interest accrued for 13 days on the temporary disability benefits award.

[3] Interest accrued for 55 days on the medical benefits award.

[4] This is equal to the daily amount of the award, which is equivalent to the total amount divided by 365 days, multiplied by the rate of interest and the number of days interest accrued. The commutative property of multiplication allows for these numbers to be multiplied in any order. Here the daily amount is equal to $130,973.36 divided by 365 days, or $358.83 per day. The interest rate is 10.125% (.10125). And interest accrued for 13 days. Multiplied together, this is equal to $472.31.

[5] This is equal to the daily amount of the award, which is equivalent to the total amount divided by 365 days, multiplied by the rate of interest and the number of days interest accrued. The commutative property of multiplication allows for these numbers to be multiplied in any order. Here the daily amount is equal to $576,539.48 divided by 365 days, or $1,579.56 per day. The interest rate is 10.125% (.10125). And interest accrued for 55 days. Multiplied together, this is equal to $8,796.17.

[6] The sum of the temporary disability benefits interest and the medical benefits interest is $9,268.48.

DATED this 7th day of August, 2026.

INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

Claire Sharp, Chair

Aaron White, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Commission Secretary

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on 7th day of August, 2026, a true and correct copy of the foregoing **ORDER GRANTING INTEREST AWARD** was served upon the following:

__X___US MAIL __X___ EMAIL

RICHARD WHITEHEAD
PO BOX 1319
COEUR D'ALENE, ID 838161319
chrissy@whiteheadlaw.net

__X___US MAIL __X___ EMAIL

W. SCOTT WIGLE
PO BOX 1007
BOISE, ID 837011007
swigle@bowen-bailey.com

Commission Secretary