

IDAPA 17 – IDAHO INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

17.02.11 – ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION UNDER THE WORKERS' COMPENSATION LAW – SECURITY FOR COMPENSATION – SELF-INSURED EMPLOYERS

DOCKET NO. 17-0211-1801

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING – PROPOSED RULE

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has initiated proposed rulemaking procedures. The action is authorized pursuant to Sections 72-508, 72-301, and 72-304 Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: Public hearing(s) concerning this rulemaking will be scheduled if requested in writing by twenty-five (25) persons, a political subdivision, or an agency, not later than October 17, 2018.

The hearing site(s) will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodation must be made not later than five (5) days prior to the hearing, to the agency address below.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a nontechnical explanation of the substance and purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

The Commission seeks to clarify the new electronic requirements for self-insured employers on the submission of First Reports of Injury and Claims for Benefits, notices of occupational illness, and fatalities. The changes also eliminate the need to submit paper documentation in support of electronically-filed initial payments.

FEE SUMMARY: The following is a specific description of the fee or charge imposed or increased: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) during the fiscal year resulting from this rulemaking: N/A

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: Pursuant to Section 67-5220(1), Idaho Code, negotiated rulemaking was conducted. The Notice of Intent to Promulgate Rules – Negotiated Rulemaking was published in the June 6, 2018 Idaho Administrative Bulletin, Vol. 18-6, page 75.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE: Pursuant to Section 67-5229(2)(a), Idaho Code, the following is a brief synopsis of why the materials cited are being incorporated by reference into this rule: N/A

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning the proposed rule, contact Patti Vaughn, Benefits Administration Manager, (208) 334-6063.

Anyone may submit written comments regarding this proposed rulemaking. All written comments must be directed to the undersigned and must be delivered on or before October 24, 2018.

Dated this 24th day of August, 2018.

Mindy Montgomery, Director
Industrial Commission
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THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED TEXT OF DOCKET NO. 17-0211-1801
(Only Those Sections With Amendments Are Shown.)

051. REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING IDAHO WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS FILES.

All self-insured employers and licensed adjusters servicing Idaho workers' compensation claims shall comply with the following requirements: (4-7-11)

01. Idaho Office. All self-insured employers and licensed adjusters servicing Idaho workers' compensation claims shall maintain an office within the state of Idaho. The offices shall be staffed by adequate personnel to conduct business. The self-insured employer shall designate and require an Idaho licensed, resident adjuster to make decisions regarding claims pursuant to Section 72-305, Idaho Code. As staffing changes occur and, at least annually, the self-insured employer or licensed adjuster shall submit to the Industrial Commission Secretary the names of those authorized to make decisions regarding claims pursuant to Section 72-305, Idaho Code. Answering machines, answering services, or toll free numbers outside of the state will not suffice. (3-25-16)

02. Claim Files. All Idaho workers' compensation claim files shall be maintained within the state of Idaho in either hard copy or immediately accessible electronic format. Claim files shall include, but are not limited to: (4-7-11)

- a. First Report of Injury and Claim for Benefits; (4-7-11)
- b. Copies of bills for medical care; (4-7-11)
- c. Copy of lost-time computations, if applicable; (4-7-11)
- d. Correspondence reflecting reasons for any delays in payments (i.e., awaiting medical reports, clarification, questionable items on bills, etc.), the resolution of such delays and acceptance or denial of compensability; (4-7-11)
- e. Employer's Supplemental Report; and (4-7-11)
- f. Medical reports. (4-7-11)

03. Correspondence. All original correspondence involving adjusting decisions regarding Idaho workers' compensation claims shall be authorized from and maintained at in-state offices. (3-25-16)

04. Date Stamp. Each of the documents listed in Subsections 051.02 and 051.03 shall be date-stamped with the name of the receiving office on the day received, and by each receiving agent or vendor acting on behalf of the self-insured employer. (4-7-11)

05. Notice and Claim. All First Reports of Injury, Claims for Benefits, notices of occupational illnesses and fatalities shall be sent directly to the in-state ~~adjuster~~ claims administrator or self-insured employer responsible for making the electronic filing with the Commission. The original copy of the First Report of Injury, Claim for Benefits and notices of occupational illness and fatality shall be sent directly to the Industrial Commission. (4-7-11)(_____)

06. Compensation. All compensation, as defined by Section 72-102, Idaho Code, must be issued from the in-state office. (4-7-11)

07. Checks and Drafts. Checks must be signed and issued within the state of Idaho; drafts are prohibited. (4-7-11)

a. The Commission may, upon receipt of a written Application for Waiver, grant a waiver from the provisions of Subsections 051.06 and 051.07 of this rule to permit a self-insured employer to sign and issue checks outside the state of Idaho. (4-7-11)

b. An Application for Waiver must be accompanied by an affidavit signed by an officer or principal of the self-insured employer, attesting to the fact that the self-insured employer is prepared to comply with all statutes and rules pertaining to prompt payment of compensation. (4-7-11)

c. All waivers shall be effective from the date the Commission issues the order granting the waiver. A waiver shall remain in effect until revoked by the Industrial Commission. At least annually, staff of the Industrial Commission may review the performance of any self-insured employer for which a waiver under this rule has been granted to assure that the self-insured employer is complying with all statutes and rules pertaining to prompt payment of compensation. (4-7-11)

d. If at any time after the Commission has granted a waiver, the Commission receives information permitting the inference that the self-insured employer has failed to provide timely benefits to any claimant, the Commission may issue an order to show cause why the Commission should not revoke the waiver; and, after affording the self-insured employer an opportunity to be heard, may revoke the waiver and order the self-insured employer to comply with the requirements of Subsections 051.06 and 051.07 of this rule. (4-7-11)

08. Copies of Checks. Copies of checks and/or electronically reproducible copies of the information contained on the checks must be maintained in the in-state files for Industrial Commission audit purposes. A copy of the first income benefit check, showing signature and date, shall be sent to the Industrial Commission the same day of issuance for legacy claims. Paper copies of the first income benefit check need not be sent to the Industrial Commission on claims when the initial payment transaction is filed electronically. (3-25-16)()

09. Prompt Claim Servicing. Prompt claim servicing includes, but is not limited to: (4-7-11)

a. Making an initial decision to accept or deny a claim for an injury or occupational disease within thirty (30) days of the date the claims administrator receives knowledge of the same. The worker shall be given notice of that initial decision in accordance with Section 72-806, Idaho Code. Nothing in this rule shall be construed as amending the requirement to start payment of income benefits no later than four (4) weeks or twenty-eight (28) days from the date of disability under the provisions of Section 72-402, Idaho Code. (3-28-18)

b. Payment of medical bills in accordance with the provisions of IDAPA 17.02.09, Medical Fees, Sections 031, 032, 033, and 034. (4-7-11)

c. Payment of income benefits on a weekly basis, unless otherwise approved by the Commission. (4-7-11)

i. The first payment of income benefits under Section 72-408, Idaho Code, shall constitute application by the self-insured employer for a waiver to pay Temporary Total Disability (TTD) benefits on a bi-weekly basis, Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) benefits on other than a weekly basis, Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) benefits based on permanent impairment and Permanent Total Disability (PTD) benefits every twenty-eight (28) days, rather than on a weekly basis. (3-28-18)

ii. Such waiver application shall be granted upon receipt and remain in effect unless revoked by the Industrial Commission in accordance with Subparagraph 051.09.c.iii., below. (3-28-18)

iii. If at any time after a waiver has been granted pursuant to this section the Commission receives information permitting the inference that the self-insured employer has failed to service claims in accordance with Idaho law, or that such waiver has created an undue hardship on a claimant, the Commission may issue an order to show cause why the Commission should not revoke that waiver, and after affording the employer an opportunity to be heard, may revoke the waiver with respect to all or certain claimants and order the self-insured employer to comply with the requirements of Subsection 051.09.c. of this rule. (3-28-18)

d. Payment of the first Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) benefit based on permanent impairment no

later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the medical report providing the impairment rating. The first payment shall include payment of benefits retroactive to the date of medical stability. (3-28-18)

e. Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) payments shall be calculated using the employee's pay period, whether weekly, bi-weekly, or semi-monthly. For employees paid pursuant to any other schedule, TPD benefits shall be calculated semi-monthly. TPD payments owed for a particular pay period shall issue no later than seven (7) days following the date on which employee is ordinarily paid for that pay period. (3-28-18)

10. **Audits.** The Industrial Commission will perform periodic audits to ensure compliance with the above requirements. (4-7-11)

11. **Non-Compliance.** Non-compliance with the above requirements may result in the revocation of the authority of a self-insured employer to self-insure its workers' compensation obligations in the state of Idaho, or such lesser sanctions as the Industrial Commission may impose. (4-7-11)