

Percentage of Permanent Partial Disability

If you suffer permanent damage to a body part as a result of a work-related injury or an occupational disease, you may be eligible for permanent partial disability benefits. There are two types of permanent partial disability benefits: percentage and scheduled losses. For more information on scheduled losses, please refer to the *Permanent Partial Scheduled Losses Disability* fact sheet.

Applying for benefits

Percentage of permanent partial disability awards are compensation for permanent impairments caused by a work-related injury or and occupational disease. To apply for the award, you must file an *Application for Determination of the Percentage of Permanent Partial Disability or Increase of Permanent Partial Disability* (C-92). For a copy of the form, log on to ohiobwc.com, select Workers, then choose Forms. You may complete and file the form online at ohiobwc.com.

You may file for a percentage of permanent partial disability 26 weeks after receiving your last payment of temporary total or wage loss, 26 weeks from the date of injury or contraction of an occupational disease if compensation is not paid, or 26 weeks from the date of injury when the employer paid full salary/wages and no other compensation has been paid for claims with dates of injury on or after June 30, 2006.

For claims with dates prior to June 30, 2006, you may apply for a percentage of permanent partial disability 40 weeks after you receive your last temporary total or wage loss compensation payment, 40 weeks from the date of injury or contraction of an occupational disease if compensation is not paid, or 40 weeks from the date of injury when the employer paid full salary/wages and no other compensation has been paid.

Permanent partial disability awards are based on two-thirds of the injured worker's statewide average weekly wage, not to exceed a maximum one-third of the average weekly wage.

BWC determines the initial percentage of permanent partial impairment award based on an independent medical examiner's recommendation. BWC requires a medical exam to determine the initial whole person impairment as result of the work-related injury. A statewide network of physicians provides medical examinations for percentage of permanent partial disability applicants. After the medical exam, BWC issues a tentative order based on the medical exam report.

If you received a percentage of permanent partial disability award totaling 100 percent collectively in all of your claims since Oct. 1, 1963, you are not eligible to file an application for additional percentage awards.

Filing an objection

You and your employer have 20 days from receiving the order to object to the percentage of disability awarded. If the injured worker and or the employer do not file an objection, the order becomes effective.

If an objection is filed, the Industrial Commission of Ohio (IC) will hear the objection and make a ruling based on the presented medical evidence. If all parties agree with the IC's order, BWC will pay compensation. The IC may agree with the percent of disability previously awarded, or reduce or increase the percentage awarded based on the medical evidence. BWC does not pay percentage awards until the IC issues a final decision.

Either party may then request the initial ruling be reconsidered. The IC will hear the reconsideration request. The decision on the reconsideration cannot be appealed.

Applying for an increase

When BWC receives a request for an increase (C-92), it forwards the request and the supporting documentation to the employer of record and the employer's representative, and holds it for 60 days. BWC will usually conduct a medical file review before processing payment on a request for an increase of permanent partial disability. However, BWC may schedule you for an examination in exceptional situations only, such as highly complex injuries or if another condition has been allowed in the claim. BWC will dismiss the C-92 application if it does not contain supporting documentation.

BWC will consider a request for an increase whether or not it has allowed an additional condition in the claim. You should check the third box on the application and submit medical documentation supporting the request for an increase. Once BWC evaluates the C-92 and supporting documentation, a medical review may be done to make the determination.

If BWC has allowed an additional condition in the claim since the last percentage of permanent partial disability award, you need to submit only the C-92 and check the second box. BWC will schedule an exam.