

**From:** Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation  
**Sent:** Monday, February 27, 2017  
**Subject:** RepConnect - February 2017



### **Assignment of Claim Numbers**

Over the years, BWC has used different data elements to assign claim numbers. Each claim number is a unique identifier for the claim. BWC's new claims-management system uses the year the claim entered the claims-management system rather than the year of the injury as the first two numbers of the claim number. It is important to remember that all documentation submitted to BWC for that specific claim must contain that claim number.

### **Ethics Reminder**

Don't forget that ethical rules contained in the Ohio Administrative Code (OAC) apply to all parties representing injured workers or employers in their interaction with BWC or the Ohio Industrial Commission (IC). Specifically, this includes:

- The Code of Ethics;
- Rules concerning the elimination of outside influence;
- Rules covering impartial claims and risk account handling;
- Rules regarding the avoidance of favoritism in the process.

The Code and rules for BWC and IC are contained in [OAC 4123-15](#) and [OAC 4121-15](#).

### **Requests for Handicap Reimbursement**

Employers who wish to file an application for handicap reimbursement for a particular claim have several options for submission. After completing the [Application for Handicap Reimbursement \(CHP-4A\)](#), the employer or representative can deliver it in person or through the mail.

For hand delivery, submit the form to: **BWC's Customer Service Desk, 30 W. Spring St., Columbus, OH.**

For delivery by mail, send the form to: **BWC, Attn: Handicap Reimbursement Unit, 30 W. Spring St., 26th Floor, Columbus, OH 43215-2256.** *(Applicants who file via mail may provide a copy of the application and a self-addressed stamped envelope. BWC will mail a date-stamped copy to the employer representative.)*

**Please note:** BWC does not permit the electronic submission of handicap reimbursement applications via email and/or fax transmission. Include evidentiary support with the application of the handicap reimbursement you seek. Evidentiary support should be clear, concise and directly related to the issue. You may send questions concerning the handicap reimbursement program via email to: [HandreimbQuest@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:HandreimbQuest@bwc.state.oh.us). You can also reach the Handicap Reimbursement Unit via telephone at the following numbers:

- Maria W. 614-466-9390;
- Rachel G. 614-752-3944.

### **Overpayment Reduction Notice**

With the implementation of its new claims management system, BWC made the decision to send the *Overpayment Reduction Notice* to injured workers at the end of the year rather than sending this notice every time a payment is made that reduces an existing overpayment. The notice provides an update to the customer regarding the status of his or her overpayment balance for the calendar year. Unfortunately, when BWC implemented the new claims-management system, the system created some unnecessary *Overpayment Reduction Notices*, leading to some confusion for injured workers and their representatives.

BWC is re-evaluating the content of the notice and the manner in which BWC sends them to the customer. BWC will provide updates as it makes decisions and implements them.

Please direct claim-specific questions to your [local BWC customer service office](#).

### **Scheduled Compensation Payments**

BWC now has the ability to issue bi-weekly compensation payments on any business day of the week. The exception to this is payment of permanent total disability and death benefit pension periods that begin on Sunday and end on Saturday. All other pension period start dates can vary (e.g., temporary total, wage loss, scheduled loss). BWC will continue to pay

these types every two weeks. For these other types of ongoing compensation, BWC must receive all necessary documentation (i.e., C-84 and MEDCO-14) at least five business days prior to the expiration of the last known pension date for the payments to continue on the same two-week cycle.

Please direct claim specific questions to your local BWC customer service office.

### Ohio Safety Congress & Expo offers free CLEs

Registration is now open for the [Ohio Safety Congress & Expo 2017 \(OSC17\)](#). Safety congress is the largest regional safety and health conference in the U.S., but it's not just about workplace safety.

Attendance is FREE for this three-day event happening March 8-10 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center, and it provides [several classes offering free continuing legal education](#). Attendees at OSC17 could earn up to 15.50 CLE hours.

Each year thousands of attendees come to safety congress to learn from expert presenters from across the country covering topics related to:

- Occupational safety and health;
- Workers' compensation trends;
- Controlling claims costs;
- Medical treatment of injured workers.

The Expo Marketplace features hundreds of exhibitors and representatives from BWC. Register for OSC17 [here](#).



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Questions? Send us an email [reconnect@bwc.state.oh.us](mailto:reconnect@bwc.state.oh.us)

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