The Employers' Adviser

Volume 3 **Fall 2002**

A quarterly newsletter of the Employers' Advisers Office, Compensation Advisory Services, Ministry of Skills Development & Labour, Government of British Columbia. The Employers' Advisers Office provides advice, assistance, representation and training on all aspects of Workers' Compensation.

Please pass this on to the person handling your WCB issues.
For further information on the Employers' Advisers Branch please call (604) 713-0303 or 1-800-925-2233

Check out our website

www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao

Important WCB Remittance Schedule

EMPLOYERS with quarterly accounts are required to report their assessable earnings and make payment to the WCB by these dates:

Quarter	Period Covered	Due Date
3rd Quarter	Jul to Sep	Oct 20
4th Quarter	Oct to Dec	Jan 20
1st Quarter	Jan to Mar	Apr 20
2nd Quarter	Apr to Jun	Jul 20

Employers with both annual and quarterly accounts receive an Employer's Payroll and Contract Labour Report (Form 1810) once a year to complete and return to the WCB.

- Employers with annual accounts must return their reports by **February 28**
- Employers with quarterly accounts must return their reports by **March 15**
- Employers always report for the previous year. For example, in early 2003, all employers will complete their 1810 form for the year 2002.

STILL TO COME

FURTHER legislation is scheduled to be introduced and debated in the legislature this fall to cover the second phase of WCB reform. A discussion paper released this spring asked for feedback from interested groups on such topics as occupational health, vocational rehabilitation, survivor benefits and rights of the estate. Watch this newsletter, WCB and Province of BC websites for updates.

BASE PREMIUM RATES

THE average base premium rate for BC employers in 2003 will rise 1.2% to $2.06 per $100 of assessable worker payroll, a 3 cent increase from 2002. BC's 2003 rate compares competitively with Alberta, where the average rate will rise more than 12%

REVISED SEMINARS

EMPLOYERS' Advisers have reviewed and revised two of the core seminars:
- Claims Management - 4 hours
- Appeals - 4 hours

For dates & times of the seminar nearest you check out our website www.labour.gov.bc.ca/eao or call us toll free 1-800-925-2233.

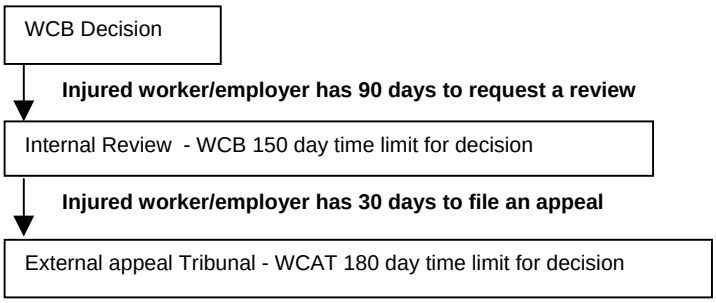
- BILL 63 -

Workers' Compensation Amendment Act (No.2), 2002

Introduced October 10, 2002, Bill 63 replaces Bill 56, the Workers' Compensation Amendment Act (No.2), third and final reading October 29, 2002.

- Reduces the levels of review and appeal of WCB decisions from three to two
- Creates a new internal review function at WCB to improve the quality of initial decision-making
- Establishes a new, independent appeal tribunal as the final level of appeal for Workers' Compensation matters.
- Maximum 15 months for final decision vs. 35 month average under the old system

New Appeal Structure - Effective Early 2003



Note → **The Employers' Advisers will offer free Information Seminars in early 2003 regarding changes to the WCB and its legislation. Watch your newspaper and our website for details.**

WCB INTRODUCES NEW PAYMENT OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYERS.

Starting January 2003 employers can customize their payment and reporting plan.

- **Pre-payment at the beginning of the year**
  - Earns a $25.00 discount
  - Qualify for clearance for the entire year
- **Pre-authorized Chequing**
  - Receive advanced clearance to the next quarter
- **Web Banking**
- **Credit card payment**

This fall WCB will send out details of the program along with The instructions on how to set up a secured account. If you want to sign up today, go to www.worksafebc.com and select "online services" and you'll be on your way to designing your own payment and reporting plan for 2003.