



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services

Workers' Compensation Division

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To: Workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers, and service companies

Subject: Decline in state average weekly wage will affect the calculation of workers' benefits and attorney fees

INDUSTRY NOTICE

The state average weekly wage (SAWW) defined in ORS 656.211 is used to compute many workers' compensation benefits, including temporary disability, permanent disability, and fatal benefits. Maximum benefit levels and some attorney fees are tied to the SAWW and are adjusted annually on July 1.

The Oregon Employment Department has notified the Department of Consumer and Business Services that the SAWW has decreased 1.149 percent, from \$974.20 to \$963.01.

Effective July 1, 2017, maximum benefit levels for workers injured on or after July 1, 2017, will be lower than current levels. Benefits are based on the levels in place on the date of injury, so benefit levels for workers injured before July 1, 2017, are not affected by the SAWW decrease.

Before the end of May, the Workers' Compensation Division will publish revised bulletins reflecting the new SAWW:

- Bulletin 111, "Computation of temporary disability, permanent disability, and fatal benefits based on Oregon's average weekly wage"
- Addendum to Bulletin 124, "Revised cost-of-living matrix and vocational assistance fee schedule effective July 1, 2017"
- Bulletin 356, "Attorney fees"

The temporary and permanent disability calculators on the division's website will be updated with the change.

If you have questions, please contact the division at 800-452-0288.

Louis D. Savage, Administrator
Workers' Compensation Division