



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services
Workers' Compensation Division
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BULLETIN NO. 367 **Nov. 9, 2016**

TO: Workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers,
and self-insured employer groups

SUBJECT: 2017 premium assessment rate

This bulletin provides the workers' compensation premium assessment rate to be applied against premium earned during the calendar year 2017. This bulletin replaces Bulletin 367 issued Oct. 22, 2015.

Effective Jan. 1, 2017, the department determined an assessment rate of 6.8 percent of direct earned premium is necessary for the department to carry out its statutory responsibility to regulate, administer, and enforce the workers' compensation and occupational safety and health laws of the state of Oregon (see ORS 656.612 and OAR 440-045-0020). This rate is an increase of 0.6 percentage points from the 2016 rate. This assessment funds the operations of the Workers' Compensation Division, the Workers' Compensation Board, most of Oregon-OSHA, a portion of the Division of Financial Regulation, and other parts of the Department of Consumer and Business Services that support these activities.

An additional assessment of 0.2 percent for self-insured employers and public-sector self-insured employer groups, and 1.0 percent for private-sector self-insured employer groups is required to fund the Self-Insured Employer Adjustment Reserve and the Self-Insured Employer Group Adjustment Reserve (ORS 656.614 and OAR 440-045-0025).

These rates apply to all premium earned on or after Jan. 1, 2017. Insurers should refer to Bulletin 144 for payment instructions. Self-insured employers and self-insured employer groups should refer to Bulletin 374. These bulletins are available on our website: <http://wcd.oregon.gov/forms/Pages/bulletins.aspx>.

Assessment rates for 2017 and rates for prior four years are:

Year	Insurers	Self-insured employers	Self-insured employer groups
2017	6.8 percent	7.0 percent	7.0 percent – public groups 7.8 percent – private groups
2016	6.2 percent	6.4 percent	6.4 percent – public groups 7.2 percent – private groups
2015	6.2 percent	6.4 percent	6.4 percent – public groups 7.2 percent – private groups
2014	6.2 percent	6.4 percent	7.2 percent
2013	6.2 percent	6.4 percent	6.4 percent

The department mailed the attached notice to Oregon employers announcing the average pure premium rate, Workers' Benefit Fund assessment rate, and premium assessment rate.

If you have questions about this bulletin, contact the Workers' Compensation Division, Performance Section, 503-947-7687.

/s/ Louis Savage

Louis Savage, Administrator
Workers' Compensation Division

Distribution: WCD-LY, PD8903, PD8913, SIPA, PADS, electronic mailing lists
Attachment: Notice to Oregon Employers dated Nov. 9, 2016



NOTICE TO OREGON EMPLOYERS

Nov. 9, 2016

What Employers Will Pay for Workers' Compensation in 2017

Please share this notice with your payroll and risk management staff

- **Insurance premium:** The pure premium rate for 2017 will **decrease by an average 6.6 percent** compared with 2016. Pure premiums are the base rates, before insurer costs are added. The impact on your company's rate depends on a variety of factors, including industry and individual claim records. Your next policy renewal with your insurer will reflect this change.
- **Premium assessment:** Insurance companies (on your behalf), self-insured employers, and self-insured employer groups pay an assessment to the state to administer workers' compensation and workplace safety programs. The assessment **will increase from 6.2 percent to 6.8 percent** of premiums paid. Self-insured employers and self-insured employer groups pay an additional amount into a reserve fund to pay claims in the event of an insolvency.

Self-insured employers pay 7.0 percent in 2017. Public-sector self-insured employer groups pay 7.0 percent. Private-sector self-insured employer groups pay 7.8 percent.

Employer Payroll Information

Workers' Benefit Fund (cents-per-hour) assessment: Employers and employees split this assessment, which employers collect through payroll. This assessment will **decrease from 3.3 cents to 2.8 cents** per hour or partial hour worked by each individual that an employer must cover or chooses to provide with workers' compensation coverage.

Employers must pay at least half the amount (1.40 cents per hour) and deduct no more than half from workers' wages.

Each quarter, employers use Forms OQ and OTC to report and pay the assessment through Oregon's Combined Payroll Tax Reporting System. For information about calculating the assessment, go to oregon.gov/DCBS/Pages/wbf.aspx, call 503-378-2372, or email wbfassess.fabs@oregon.gov.

This fund pays for benefits to injured workers and their beneficiaries. The fund also provides money to employers to help injured workers return to work.

For more information about workers' compensation costs:

- Contact your insurer.
- Call the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services at 800-452-0288 (toll-free) or visit http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/dir/wc_cost/index.html.

Important reminder

An employer cannot require a worker injured on the job to get treatment from a specific health care provider. Doing so could result in a civil penalty. Form 801 “Report of Job Injury or Illness” is being revised to have employers and workers acknowledge this prohibition. Your insurer will provide updated forms.

Workers’ Compensation Services for Employers

The Department of Consumer and Business Services provides many programs and services that drive Oregon’s success in keeping workers’ compensation costs low and in improving workplace safety and health.

Workers’ Compensation Division: Help with return-to-work programs and issues such as medical and dispute resolution, coverage, compliance, and reconsideration. 800-452-0288 (toll-free), workcomp.questions@oregon.gov, wcd.oregon.gov.

Oregon OSHA: Help with safety and health programs, accident investigation, on-site consultations, and technical trainings. 800-922-2689 (toll-free), osha.oregon.gov.

Small Business Ombudsman for Workers’ Compensation: Help with questions on premium calculation, audit disputes, coverage, claims and policy provisions, outreach, and education. 503-378-4209, wc.advocate@oregon.gov, oregon.gov/DCBS/SBO.



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