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## Rates will remain stable in 2010

The 2010 average base premium rate will remain at \$1.56 per \$100 of employers' assessable payroll – the same rate as the last two years, and our lowest in 30 years. Although the overall rate remains unchanged, some industry rates have increased, while others have decreased. Base rates are expected to decrease for 41 percent of employers, increase for 54 percent, and remain the same for five percent. Given current economic pressures, we have ensured that no industry faces a base rate increase of more than eight percent in 2010. Any premium shortfalls will be incorporated into the industry's future rates. To view the 2010 rates, go to [WorkSafeBC.com](http://WorkSafeBC.com), and look under Insurance, then Premiums.

## Maximum wage rate to increase

The maximum wage rate and the maximum available coverage for Personal Optional Protection (POP) insurance increased as of January 1, 2010. The maximum wage rate – the maximum payroll amount we insure per worker or active shareholder for the year – increased to \$71,200 per worker, up from \$68,500 in 2009. And, the maximum allowable POP coverage increased to \$5,933 per month from \$5,708 in 2009. These yearly increases are governed by Section 33 of the *Workers Compensation Act*. WorkSafeBC uses data published by Statistics Canada on average earnings of B.C. workers to calculate each year's maximum wage rate.

## WorkSafeBC works to maintain fair system

Your insurance premiums should remain fair and equitable. After all, you fund the cost of work-related injuries and diseases through your premiums, including the costs of health care, wage loss, and rehabilitation, as well as workplace health and safety and administration programs. And your premiums are calculated based on your claim costs and the risk of injury in your industry. When employers don't pay their share of workers' compensation, they gain a competitive advantage, unduly burdening all other registered employers. For more information about the impact of fraud, visit [WorkSafeBC.com](http://WorkSafeBC.com) under Contact Us, then click on Report fraud, or contact the Fraud Tip Line at 604 276-3295 or 1 877 523-3315 or e-mail [fraudinfo@worksafebc.com](mailto:fraudinfo@worksafebc.com).

## HELPFUL RESOURCES



## Report payroll and remit payment online

Whether you're preparing for a safety discussion or gathering information on a specific topic, we have free publications and videos to assist you.

The publications range from one-page bulletins and pamphlets to 100-page books. They cover industry-specific topics, as well as providing general information on health and safety.

They may be downloaded for free at [www.worksafebc.com/publications/](http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/) or purchased in print form at [www.worksafebcstore.com](http://www.worksafebcstore.com).

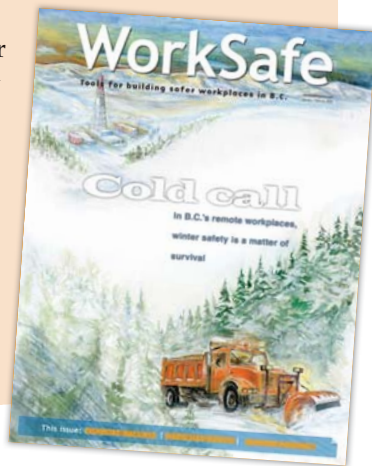
Our award-winning health and safety videos are also available online. To watch one of our dozens of videos, check out our YouTube channel at [www.youtube.com/user/WorkSafeBC.com](http://www.youtube.com/user/WorkSafeBC.com). To view or download these videos for free, go to [www.worksafebc.com/publications/](http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/) and click on Download or stream videos.

## It's easier to report and remit online

With our easy-to-use web site, you can report your payroll and make your payment in just a few minutes. To simplify your reporting and remitting process, go to Fast File & Pay or Online Reporting and Remitting at **WorkSafeBC.com**. If you send in your form by mail or fax, you may experience processing delays. But by taking your business online, you'll discover the benefits of working virtually: You'll work when you choose because the reporting and remitting systems are available 24/7. You'll experience error-free payroll reporting with no processing delays. You'll get your confirmation numbers immediately; so no follow-up is required. And, you'll find that multiple payment options are available. Visit **WorkSafeBC.com** to see the range of services available to you.

## In the January/February issue of WorkSafe Magazine

Winter's arrival hits some B.C. workplaces harder than others — especially those situated in the isolated far north. In these snowbound zones, anyone working outdoors considers winter preparedness a necessary means of survival. To learn more, visit **WorkSafeMagazine.com**.



## Workplace status changes withdrawn

In 2008, we told you about approved changes to the *Assessment Manual's* policies for determining workplace status — scheduled to come into effect January 1, 2010. Since then, we've heard ongoing concerns from employers regarding the effect of these policy changes on their business relationships and activities. As a result, the Board of Directors retracted the workplace status policy changes on September 15, 2009, and directed the administration to review the original proposal. WorkSafeBC will be developing a discussion paper and draft policy that focuses on clarifying the distinction between workers and independent operators. In the meantime, the original policies continue to apply.

## Has your business changed?

Sometimes changes to your operations result in a new classification or different rate for your firm. If you have made — or plan to make — significant changes to your business, contact us to be sure your firm is appropriately classified and paying the correct rate. Also, contact us if you close your business or change the business' name, address, or location. To report these changes, call our Employer Service Centre at 604 244-6181 or toll-free at 1 888 922-2768. You can also provide updates to your account information online by visiting **WorkSafeBC.com**, clicking on the Insurance tab, and selecting Change address/account info.

## Calendar of events

### Public Service Alliance of Canada B.C. Regional Triennial Health and Safety Conference

Feb 28–Mar 1

Burnaby, B.C.

[www.pscabc.com/2009/01/14/upcoming-psac-bc-health-safety-conference-feb-28-mar-1-in-vancouver/](http://www.pscabc.com/2009/01/14/upcoming-psac-bc-health-safety-conference-feb-28-mar-1-in-vancouver/)

## Did You Know?

*WorkSafeBC provides coverage to more than 500,000 workplaces in B.C.*



## Popular contacts

- Claims Call Centre 604 231-8888, toll-free 1 888 967-5377
- Employer Service Centre 604 244-6181 toll-free 1 888 922-2768
- Prevention Information Line 604 276-3100 toll-free 1 888 621-7233
- Human Resources 604 276-3009, toll-free 1 888 757-5552
- Fraud Tip Line 604 276-3295, toll-free 1 877 523-3315
- Teleclaim 1 888 WORKERS (967-5377)

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This newsletter is also available electronically on the WorkSafeBC web site at [www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/news\\_update/](http://www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/news_update/)

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WORKING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE