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Proposed 2011 rates posted on WorkSafeBC.com

While the 2011 rates won't be approved until later this fall, the average base rate is expected to be \$1.54 per \$100 of employers' assessable payroll – the lowest rate in more than 30 years. However, 56 percent of employers will see their base rates go up next year, mainly because WorkSafeBC is removing a one-time cap on rate increases. During 2010, WorkSafeBC capped rate increases for employers in a number of industries to address last year's economic downturn. But, as of 2011, those employers will be charged their full rate. Nonetheless, we will continue our longstanding practice of limiting base rate increases to 20 percent. For more information, visit www.worksafebc.com/insurance/premiums/2011_prelim_rates/default.asp.

Find answers about assessments at your fingertips

Do you have a question about one of our practices – how WorkSafeBC defines assessable payroll, conducts appeals, or determines your firm's classification, for example? If you do, you can now find the answer at your fingertips. The Assessment Department has developed a series of practice directives designed to help WorkSafeBC employees and employers alike interpret the *Workers Compensation Act* and associated policies. Besides providing you with tools to better understand how we apply law and policy, the practice directives are there to ensure we remain fair, consistent, and transparent in our decisions. You can view them at www.worksafebc.com/regulation_and_policy/practice_directives/default.asp.

Claim cost relief available for employers

If one of your workers is receiving workers' compensation, you'll want to note these important changes to the calculation of your firm's claim costs. Starting August 1, 2010, if changes to a worker's health delay his or her recovery, and hence, return-to-work – for example, a worker gets in a car accident while he or she is off work or is subsequently diagnosed with a disease that's not work-related – claim costs associated with the delay will be excluded from your experience rating. These costs will be borne by all rate groups and will not affect the calculation of your premium discount or surcharge. To learn more, visit www.worksafebc.com/regulation_and_policy/policy_decision/board_decisions/2010/july/default.asp.

TIME SAVER



Clearance Alert takes the work off your plate

If you hire contractors on a regular basis, be sure to take advantage of Clearance Alert – an online service that automatically advises you of changes in the status of contractors' WorkSafeBC accounts. Through Clearance Alert, simply submit your list of contractors to us over a secure, online server. We'll monitor the clearance status of these contractors and notify you by e-mail of any changes to their clearance ratings. You'll be able to see whether a contractor's rating has gone from "good standing" to "cancelled" or "delinquent," or from "delinquent" back to "good standing." And, when you sign-up for Clearance Alert, you'll receive the most recent information about the contractors who work for you. For more, visit www.worksafebc.com/insurance/managing_your_account/clearance_letters/ols_10_20.asp.

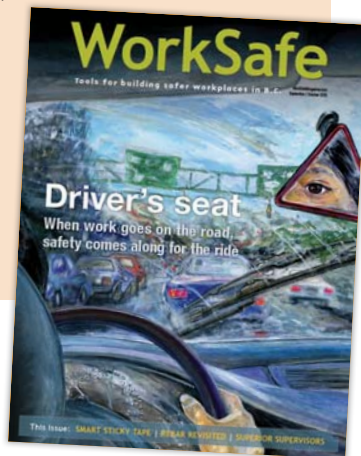
Expanded coverage for asbestos-exposed workers who develop lung cancer

To better support workers who develop asbestos-related diseases, WorkSafeBC's Board of Directors approved changes to Schedule B of the *Workers Compensation Act*. Starting September 28, 2010, eligible workers may be compensated if, at or immediately before their employment, they develop lung cancer after having worked in an industry recognized for exposing them to airborne asbestos dust for 10 or more years. The

recognized industries include asbestos mining, insulation or filter material production, construction (when exposed to asbestos-containing materials), plumbing or electrical, pulp mills, shipyards, and long shoring. For more information, visit www.worksafebc.com/regulation_and_policy/policy_decision/board_decisions/2010/may/default.asp#2.

In the September/October issue of *WorkSafe Magazine*

Who's responsible for safety when workers get behind the wheel for work? *WorkSafe Magazine* takes a closer at the importance of employers, supervisors, and workers working together to prevent roadside injuries. For more, visit WorkSafeMagazine.com.



Calendar of events

Working Safely With Residents Who Have Dementia

October 5

Vancouver Public Library

indlabsr@worksafebc.com or 604 276-3235

WorkSafeBC Physician Education Conference

October 23

University of Northern B.C.

Prince George, B.C.

www.worksafebcphysicians.com

Manufacturing Safety Conference

October 25-26

Delta Vancouver Airport

Richmond, B.C.

www.makeitsafe.ca

Asia Pacific Gateway Skills Table

May 4–November 18

Human Resources Essentials for Small to Mid-Sized

Construction, Security, and Marine Enterprises

Various locations throughout B.C.

www.apgst.ca/events

Did You Know?

In 2009, 14 percent of all injured workers were between the ages of 15 and 24.



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)

News Update is published by the Communications Services Department of WorkSafeBC.

This newsletter is also available electronically on the WorkSafeBC web site at www.worksafebc.com/publications/newsletters/news_update/

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