

2010

WCB facts

Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

AVERAGE EARNINGS

What are average earnings?

“Average earnings” is a term we use to describe your loss of earning capacity. Typically, this is an average of your employment-related earnings for one, two or in some cases five years, prior to your injury. We may look at more than one year’s earnings to find out what most accurately represents your loss of earnings.

Why would my payments be reviewed?

We want to pay you the amount that best reflects your actual loss of earnings. However, when your claim is accepted, we want to make sure you get paid as quickly as possible. To do this, we use the information on your file that represents your earnings at the time of your injury. If this information is incomplete, it may not really represent your actual loss of earnings.

For example, we would review your payments if you are affected by:

- shift premiums, overtime or bonuses
- seasonal lay-offs
- periods of unemployment because you were unavailable for work
- other employment income.

Because these are a part of your usual earnings, we want to make sure they are included when we calculate your benefits. A review of all your earnings information ensures you receive what you are entitled to.

To help us ensure that your payments are accurate, it is important for you to provide all of your earnings information when you file your claim with the WCB through our Claim Information Centre.

When are my payments reviewed?

Payments are automatically reviewed after you receive eight weeks of benefits.

In addition, you can request a review at any stage in your claim, even before we start our review, if the amount you are receiving does not seem to reflect what you normally earn.

If you ask for this review, you must provide any information that would support your request including a certified copy of your income tax form (T4) from Canada Revenue Agency. Remember to include proof of income from other jobs you can no longer do because of your work-related injury including bonuses, piecework income, self-employment income, etc. You should also include income you received from Employment Insurance, if any.

How do you do the average earnings review?

Your employment income is averaged over the tax year(s) it was earned. If for some reason this average doesn't accurately reflect your salary, we will get further information to confirm your earnings in your current employment situation from you and your employer. For example, if you were unable to work because of a medical condition, we will look at deleting the periods you were unable to work.

What types of income does the WCB include in my average yearly earnings?

We will consider all verifiable income when calculating your average yearly earnings. This includes income from other jobs you are unable to perform because of your work-related injury, including income from Employment Insurance, as well as bonuses, overtime, piecework income, self-employment income, etc. This income must be verified by Canada Revenue Agency or by other official statements.

If my benefits change because of the review, when does the change become effective?

If you are entitled to a higher rate of pay, your increase will be effective the date of your injury and an adjustment will be sent to you.

If your payments are lowered as a result of the review, they will be reduced effective your thirteenth week of wage loss benefits.

For more information about the review process and how it affects you, call us at (204)-954-4922 or toll-free 1-800-362-3340.