

# Missouri Workers' Compensation At-A-Glance

Missouri Division of Workers' Compensation www.labor.mo.gov/dwc/

#### Jurisdiction (287.110)

- 1. Injuries and O.D. contracted in State
- 2. Contract of employment in State, or
- 3. Employment principally localized in State

## **Limitations (287.430)**

1. Maintain claim within 2 years of injury or death or last payment on account of injury (additional year if report of injury not filed)

### Report of Injury (287.380)

1. Must notify Division within 30 days of knowledge of accident and, within one month, file complete report of injury - if furnish medical aid or compensation. Failure to do so can result in criminal and monetary charges.

#### **Burden of Proof**

- 1. Accident/exposure must be the prevailing factor in causing the injury and resulting medical condition. (287.020(3)(2)(a))
- 2. Repetitive Trauma work must be the prevailing factor causing both resulting medical condition and disability treated as occupational disease if exposure is less than 3 months and repetitive motion with prior employer the prevailing factor, then prior employer liable (287.067)

#### **Reduction of Benefits**

- 1. Safety Rule or Device failure to use or follow may result in 25-50% reduction in compensation (287.120(5))
- 2. Drugs & Alcohol fail to obey rule or policy then 50% reduction in compensation if injury sustained in conjunction with use (287.120(6)(1) (a)) Total defense if non-prescribed drugs or alcohol was proximate cause (287.120(6)(2))
- 3. Penalties apply to all benefits medical, TTD, PPD (PTD and Death).

## Notice of Injury (287.127(2))

1. Must be reported within 30 days and for O.D. reported within 30 days employee is reasonably aware of work relatedness

## AWW/Rate (287.250)

- 1. AWW 13 weeks preceding injury
- 2. Rate 2/3 of AWW subject to max & min.

#### **Benefits**

- 1. Medical reasonably required to cure and relieve the effects of the injury (287.140)
  - a. Treaters selected by employer (287.140(10))
  - b. Mileage if treatment outside local or metropolitan area from employee's principal place of employment

#### 2. TTD

- a. Up to 400 weeks (287.170)
- b. Waiting period 3 days during which employer is open for purpose of operating business if disability lasts more than 14 days first 3 days retroactive (287/160(1))
- c. Basis for termination
  - 1. Return to work
  - 2. Reaches MMI
  - 3. Received unemployment comp (287.170 (2)(3))
  - 4. If terminated from employment due to post-injury misconduct (287.170 (2)(4))
  - \*Must notify employee of termination of benefits (287.203)

### 3. TPD (297.180)

- a. Up to 100 weeks, 2/3 difference between average earnings prior to accident and amount able to earn during disability (287.180)
- b. Must notify employee of termination of benefits (287.203)

#### 4. PPD (287.190)

a. Per scheduled injuries under 287.190 (1-4)

# Missouri Workers' Compensation At-A-Glance Continued

## 5. PTD (287.200)

- a. For lifetime of employee if unemployable in open labor market due to work injury
  - May owe benefits to dependents on death of employee (Schoemehl case) (Schoemehl case amended out of statute in 2008)
  - Second Injury Fund may be liable for PTD if disability due to combination of prior and current disabilities

## 6. Death (287.240)

- a. Burial expense not to exceed \$5000.00
- b. Dependents
  - 1. Relative by blood or marriage, who is actually dependent for support on employee's wages at time of injury
  - 2. Presumed dependents
    - a. spouse for which legally liable for support
    - remarriage 2 year lump sum payment
    - b. Natural posthumous or adopted children under age 18 or over age 18 if...
    - Physically or mentally incapacitated from wage earning
  - ii. 2. Until 22 years of age, if fulltime student in accredited institution
  - iii. 3. Member of Armed Forces on active duty

#### **Subrogation (287.150)**

1. Employer/carrier entitled to subrogation of 3<sup>rd</sup> party recovery minus proportionate share of expenses of recovery, including reasonable attorney fee "Ruediger" Formula - W.C. paid/gross 3rd party Recovery x Net 3rd Party recovery = Subrogation Amount due employer/work

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