

Do I need a WCB account?

Compulsory coverage

For most industries in Alberta, workers' compensation coverage is required by law. If you are operating in a compulsory industry, you must open a WCB account when you employ regular, casual, or contract individuals.

You must notify the WCB within 15 days of hiring your first worker. You must provide specific information about your operations and an estimate of your workers' insurable earnings (payroll) for the year. See our [Fact Sheet on Who do I have to cover?](#) to learn about coverage for your workers.

WCB's Contact Centre can help you determine if you are operating in a compulsory industry.

Remember: make sure you provide WCB-Alberta with a complete description of your operations so you are classified correctly. Your classification is based on the industries in which you operate, not the occupations of your workers.

Voluntary coverage

Some industries are exempt from workers' compensation insurance. If you operate in an [exempt industry](#), you may voluntarily apply for coverage. Employers and workers covered by voluntary accounts may be eligible for all of the benefits of workers' compensation insurance.

For a list of exempt industries or the premium rate for voluntary coverage, call the Contact Centre or see our [Fact Sheet on Voluntary coverage](#).

Out of province coverage

If any of your workers work outside of Alberta, even for a short time, contact the workers' compensation board or authority of that jurisdiction. They will decide if you need an account there. Let WCB-Alberta know the decision as this can impact your Alberta Annual Return. See our [Fact Sheet on Out-of-province coverage](#).

Note: Once you have an account with WCB, learn more about your responsibilities and WCB services by reviewing our [Fact Sheet for New account holders](#).