Out-of-province coverage

In certain situations, your Alberta workers are covered when they leave the province to work. At times, this coverage is automatic. In other cases, you have to request it.

Coverage by WCB doesn’t replace the coverage requirements of the jurisdiction in which the worker will be working. It’s important for you to check with the other province or country to determine those requirements as well. If you’re uncertain if you or your worker is covered while working out of province, visit our website for more information.

There are three areas to consider when determining if coverage is in place for out-of-province work:

1. The worker’s usual place of work

Workers who live in Alberta are eligible to have their coverage extended while working out of province. A worker is considered a resident of Alberta if he or she has a permanent residence here, immediate family, a bank account, registered vehicles/assets and/or provincial taxes are paid in Alberta.

Workers who aren’t Alberta residents may still be covered if they usually work in Alberta and the out-of-province work is a continuation of that work.

If your worker hasn’t worked in Alberta first or has been hired to work exclusively out of province for you without first working in Alberta, he or she may not be covered.

For example: If you’re an Alberta-based employer and your worker lives in British Columbia and normally works in Alberta, he or she would be automatically eligible for WCB coverage if they were working for you in another province.

2. The nature of employment inside and outside the province

Your workers may be covered by WCB for their out-of-province work if they’re doing the same work they would be doing in Alberta.

For example: If your worker goes to British Columbia to work on a drilling crew and you normally do drilling work in Alberta, your worker is eligible for coverage. However, if you send the drilling worker to another province to work on a construction crew, he or she would not be eligible for coverage.

3. The length of time outside the province

If your worker meets the first two conditions above, they are automatically covered for any work they do outside the province for up to 12 continuous months.

If their work extends beyond that, you must send us a written request for extension. Your application must include:

- the location of the work,
- full legal name and residency of worker(s) involved, and
- the original hire, departure and expected return dates.

Vacation, sick leave, shift rotation, etc. doesn’t reset the 12-month period. However, if your worker returns to Alberta to work for a period of time before going back to work in the other province, the 12-month period is reset.

For example: If your worker has worked in Saskatchewan for six months, then returns to work in Alberta for a month before going back to Saskatchewan, the time period has been reset. They are covered automatically for a new 12-month period.

Other circumstances

If coverage isn’t automatic, as noted in the situations above, you may still be eligible to have your workers covered while they’re working out of province. You can request coverage by completing the form located on our website.

We will review the situation and let you know if coverage is extended or if there’s anything else required to help make sure your workers are protected while working out of province.

Some other factors to consider for out-of-province coverage:

Workers who work away from home for extended periods of time aren’t always considered “at work” during their time spent outside of Alberta. They may not be covered while off site and/or acting outside the course and scope of their job.

For example: If a worker leaves an employer-provided camp at his supervisor’s direction to buy supplies and is injured in a motor vehicle accident, he will be covered for his injury. If a worker leaves an employer-provided camp to see a movie and is injured in a car accident, he will not be covered.
Laws of the jurisdiction

In the event of a work-related injury outside Alberta, your workers may be eligible to claim for workers’ compensation benefits in Alberta and the other jurisdiction. Through Alberta’s Workers’ Compensation Act and other agreements, there are mechanisms in place to ensure the worker receives benefits from only one jurisdiction.

Both you and your workers are subject to the laws in the jurisdiction where the work and accident occurs. You should contact the WCB office (or equivalent) in the jurisdiction that you will be working to determine whether you also need to establish coverage there.

Please note: You aren’t necessarily protected from lawsuit in the other jurisdiction as Alberta’s Workers’ Compensation Act may not be fully enforced there.

Interjurisdictional Agreement

If you’re working in another Canadian jurisdiction, you may be subject to the Interjurisdictional Agreement on Workers’ Compensation. This agreement is intended to avoid duplicate payment of premiums and to aid injured workers in claiming and receiving compensation when two or more jurisdictions are involved.

When you’re required to have coverage with other Canadian jurisdictions, you only report earnings and pay premiums to the WCB in the jurisdiction where the work is being performed.

If injured, your worker can make a claim for compensation to either WCB or the jurisdiction where the work was being performed.

If coverage is required outside Canada, you may be required to report earnings and pay premiums in that location as well as Alberta.

Alternate Assessment Procedure (AAP) for Interprovincial Transportation

If you’re in the trucking or bussing industry and have workers who travel between provinces, you have the option to report your workers’ total insurable earnings to the WCB in the workers’ home province*.