

**Alberta WCB  
Policies &  
Information**

Chapter:

**INJURIES**

Subject:

**GENERAL**

Authorization:

**BoD Resolution 2011/07/21**

Date:

**October 25, 2011**

**REFERENCE:**

[Workers' Compensation Act, RSA 2000, Sections 1\(1\)\(a\) and \(s\), 17\(1\), 22, 23, 24, 24.1, 24.2, 24.3, 43, 46.2, 46.3, 46.5, 54, 56, 56.1, 63, 78, 79\(a\), 80, 89, 95\(2\), and 153\(1\)\(k\)](#)

[Workers' Compensation Regulation, Section 20 and Schedule B](#)

[Firefighters' Primary Site Cancer Regulation  
Medical Panels Regulation](#)

**POLICY:**

WCB will determine whether an *injury* has occurred as the result of a compensable accident, and will adjudicate appropriate compensation and services from the *date of accident*. WCB may also consider a *second injury* compensable if it is the direct result of the original compensable injury.

When determining its responsibility, WCB will evaluate the *relationship between the injury and the compensable accident*. In second injury cases, WCB will evaluate the relationship between the original compensable injury and the second injury.

This policy is effective February 1, 2012, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

**INTERPRETATION**

**1.0 Injury**

Under s.24 of the *Workers' Compensation Act (WCA)*, compensation is payable to a worker who suffers personal injury by an accident. Injuries may be either physical or psychological. They may be the immediate result of an accident or develop over time.

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**2.0 Date of Accident**

When there is a specific incident which results in injury, the date of accident is the date on which the incident occurred.

When the compensable condition or disease is progressive (i.e., there is no specific incident), the date of accident is normally the first date on which medical treatment is provided. If, however, the worker experienced earlier lay-offs or loss of earnings which medical evidence indicates were caused by the compensable condition, the date of accident will be the first day of that earnings loss.

The date of accident for cases of potential disablement due to occupational disease is the date the potential disablement comes to WCB's attention.

**3.0 Second Injury**

A second injury is a new and distinct impairment or disease occurring as a consequence or complication of a compensable injury. To be compensable, a second injury must be the result of WCB-approved medical or rehabilitation treatment for a compensable injury or the result of a weakened limb or failure of a prosthesis or appliance related to a compensable injury (see Part II, Application 2, Second Injury).

**4.0 Relationship Between the Injury and the Compensable Accident**

Many injuries (e.g., strains, sprains, burns, cuts, etc.) have an obvious relationship to the compensable accident; consequently, determining WCB's level of responsibility is relatively simple. However, there are other injuries which, because of their progressive nature or less obvious relationship to employment, require consideration of relevant factors both in and outside employment which may have contributed to or caused the injury (see Part II, Application 1, Relationship to Compensable Accident).

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Please see Part II for additional information on the following subjects:

**Application**

- 1 – [Relationship to Compensable Accident](#)
- 2 – [Second Injury](#)
- 3 – [Occupational Disease](#)
- 4 – [Cardiac](#)
- 5 – [Hearing Loss](#)
- 6 – [Psychiatric or Psychological Injury](#)
- 7 – [Chronic Pain/Chronic Pain Syndrome](#)
- 8 – [Personal Belongings](#)
- 9 – [Firefighters' Primary Site Cancer Presumptions](#)

*[Rescinded: Medical Panels \(February 1, 2007\)](#)* (see Document History)

**Addendum**

Addendum A – [Effective Date for use of New Editions of the DSM](#)

**Previous versions**

- [Policy 0301 Part I - April 2021](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - September 2018](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - July 2018](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - April 2018](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - June 2013](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - February 2012](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - February 2007](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - January 2005](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - January 2004](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - June 2003](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - January 2003](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - June 2002](#)

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- [Policy 0301 Part I - January 2002](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - December 2000](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I - January 1998](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part I \(consolidated manual 1st Issue\) - February 1997](#)