

**Alberta WCB
Policies &
Information**

Chapter:

BENEFITS

Subject:

PERMANENT DISABILITY

Authorization:

BoD Resolution 2017/08/32

Date:

December 22, 2017

APPLICATION 10: PERMANENT INJURY AWARD – INJURIES FROM JANUARY 1, 1985 TO DECEMBER 31, 1994, INCLUSIVE

1. *What is the purpose of the Permanent Injury Award?*

A permanent injury award (PIA) is intended to provide compensation for accidents resulting in serious and permanent disfigurement or other permanent injury that, in WCB’s opinion, the worker is not already appropriately compensated for, and for which WCB has no other means to compensate the worker.

A PIA is not intended to provide additional compensation for wage loss, including loss of future income or opportunity, nor is it to be used to extend maximum compensation rates or the basis upon which individual compensation rates are set.

2. *Under what circumstances might a worker be eligible for a Permanent Injury Award?*

To be eligible for a PIA all of the following must apply:

- a) the worker was injured in a work-related accident during the period of January 1, 1985, to December 31, 1994, inclusive (this policy is based on the version of s.63 in force on January 1, 1985; previous versions of s.63 differ significantly); accidents occurring on or after January 1, 1995, are governed by Policy 04-04, Part II, Application 2, *Non-Economic Loss Payments – Injuries on or after January 1, 1995*;
- b) the accident resulted in serious and permanent disfigurement or other permanent injury (see Policy 04-04, Part I for information on permanent disability and Policy 04-07, Part I for information on severely injured workers);
- c) medical evidence indicates that no further medical improvement is likely; and
- d) WCB has no other means to compensate the worker in a manner and to the extent WCB considers appropriate under the circumstances.

Eligibility for a PIA is assessed separately for each claim.

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3. *When is a worker not entitled to a Permanent Injury Award?*

Workers are not entitled to a PIA if existing means, such as the following examples, are available to WCB to provide compensation the Board considers appropriate:

- if the injury affects a worker’s quality of life, the worker may be eligible for compensation under Policy 04-07, *Services for Workers with Severe Injuries*
- if the injury results in financial hardship to a worker, compensation may be available under Policy 04-07, Part II, Application 4, Question 16
- if the impact is physical or psychological in nature, a permanent clinical impairment rating is determined in accordance with the Alberta Permanent Clinical Impairment Guide (see Appendix D), and compensation provided in accordance with Part II of this policy

4. *When does WCB determine eligibility for a Permanent Injury Award?*

Generally WCB waits until all other WCB benefits are assessed before determining if a worker is entitled to a PIA. This enables WCB to ensure that no further medical improvement is likely, and that all other WCB benefits to which the worker may be entitled have been considered.

5. *How does WCB calculate the Permanent Injury Award?*

If the eligibility criteria set out in Question 2 are met, the claim is referred to a Special Committee. The Committee is responsible for determining the amount of each individual Permanent Injury Award (PIA). The maximum value of a PIA cannot be more than the maximum non-economic loss payment in effect when the determination is made (see Addendum A).

6. *How is a Permanent Injury Award paid?*

A PIA is generally paid as a single lump sum but, at WCB’s discretion, may be periodic payments.

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7. *When is this policy application effective?*

This policy application (Application 10 – Permanent Injury Award – Injuries from January 1, 1985 to December 31, 1994 Inclusive) is effective January 1, 2018, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

Previous versions

- [Policy 0404 Part II, Application 10 - January 2018](#)
- [Policy 0404 Part II, Application 9 - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0404 Part II, Application 9 - January 2004](#)
- [Policy 0404 Part II, Application 9 - June 2003](#)
- [Policy 0404 Part II, Application 9 - October 2001](#)
- [Policy 0404 Part II, Application 9 - June 2001](#)