

**Alberta WCB  
Policies &  
Information**

Chapter:  
**INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR WORKERS AND  
EMPLOYERS**

Subject:  
**EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS**

Authorization: **BoD Resolution 2002/10/49**      Date: **September 24, 2002**

**APPLICATION 5: COVERAGE OUTSIDE OF ALBERTA**

**1. *Does Alberta workers' compensation coverage apply to workers injured outside of Alberta?***

Alberta workers' compensation coverage applies to workers who are injured while working outside of Alberta, provided they are employed by an employer operating in an industry to which the WCA applies, and all of the requirements of s.28(1) are satisfied.

**2. *What are the requirements of s.28(1)?***

Section 28(1) sets out three basic requirements for extensions of coverage outside Alberta (see Question 3):

- a) the worker is either a resident of Alberta

OR

- the worker's usual place of employment is in Alberta and the work out of the province is a continuation of employment with the same or a related employer (see Question 6)
- b) the nature of the employment is such that, in the normal course, performance of the worker's work or service is required both in and out of Alberta
- c) the employment out of Alberta has lasted less than 12 continuous months (see Questions 4 and 5)

**3. *Must all three requirements of s.28(1) be met?***

Normally, all three requirements must be met for coverage to be automatically extended for work outside Alberta. However, s.28(2) gives WCB the discretion to waive any of the requirements of a) and b) on application by the employer, subject to any terms WCB considers appropriate. WCB will consider each application on its own merits.

The following are some examples of when coverage would not be extended automatically:

- the work performed out of the province is in a

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*Must all three requirements  
of s.28(1) be met (continued)*

different industry than the work the employer performs in Alberta

- the employees working out of the province are transferred to a related company that either does not operate in Alberta or operates in a different industry in Alberta
- the employees are not Alberta residents and have not established continuity of employment before working outside Alberta (see Question 6)

If an application to waive any of the requirements of s.28(1)(a) and (b) is approved, coverage will be effective the date of application or the date the worker begins the work outside Alberta, whichever is later. To avoid gaps in coverage the application must be made before the worker begins the work outside Alberta.

Section 28(2) also gives WCB the discretion to extend the 12-month period (see Questions 4 and 5).

**4. How long does workers' compensation coverage apply outside of Alberta?**

A worker who meets the first two requirements under s.28(1) is automatically covered for the first twelve months working outside of Alberta. When, under s.28(2)(a), WCB has waived any of the requirements, the details of coverage may vary depending on the terms WCB has set.

Employers may apply for subsequent extensions. To avoid gaps in coverage, the application should be made before the initial period expires.

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**5. *What are the guidelines for granting an extension beyond the first period?***

Requests for extensions will be considered only when the worker continues to meet the requirements of s.28(1)(a) and (b) of the WCA or the terms approved by WCB under s.28(2)(a). An extension will not be granted when a worker:

- is engaged in employment that is related to military activities, or
- is employed in another Canadian jurisdiction, and comparable coverage is available from the workers' compensation authority in that jurisdiction.

**6. *How does WCB define continuous employment for non-Alberta residents?***

Under s.28(1)(a)(ii) of the WCA, the requirement for continuous employment applies only to workers who are not Alberta residents but whose usual place of employment is in Alberta.

For WCB purposes, continuous employment means that the worker has worked for the employer or related employer\* within Alberta for some period immediately before being sent to work out of the province.

When a worker is laid off for any period of time, the worker's service is considered to be broken. Workers who are rehired after temporary lay-offs must re-establish continuous employment before WCB-Alberta will extend coverage out of the province for them. Vacation or sick leave is not considered a break in employment, and does not affect a worker's status.

Each case will be judged on its own merits; however, short-term orientation and similar training programs are not usually considered sufficient to establish continuity of employment.

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*How does WCB define continuous employment (continued)*

\*Related employers are those that meet the criteria in s.134 of the WCA.

**7. What obligations do employers have when work is being performed both in and out of Alberta?**

Employers operating in more than one jurisdiction must contact the workers' compensation authority in each jurisdiction to determine the applicable laws. Employers are responsible for complying with the workers' compensation legislation of any other jurisdiction, even when WCB-Alberta has extended out-of-province coverage to Alberta-based workers in that other jurisdiction.

**8. Do employers with workers in more than one jurisdiction have to pay workers' compensation premiums to each jurisdiction?**

When a non-Canadian jurisdiction requires that an employer establish an account, the employer may be required to pay premiums on the assessable earnings paid in that jurisdiction to both WCB-Alberta and the non-Canadian jurisdiction.

Employers operating in Canadian jurisdictions are subject to the *Interjurisdictional Agreement on Workers' Compensation* (the Interjurisdictional Agreement). The Interjurisdictional 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.

Under the Interjurisdictional Agreement, where an employer has workers that do work in two or more Canadian provinces or territories, the employer pays premiums in each jurisdiction for the work performed there. If a worker's total earnings exceed any maximum assessable earnings in effect for the year of assessment in a jurisdiction, the Interjurisdictional Agreement provides formulas for pro-rating the excess amount between

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*Employers with workers in more than one jurisdiction (continued)*

jurisdictions (see Policy 06-03, *Premiums*).

**9. When a worker is injured outside the province, in which jurisdiction does the worker claim?**

Subject to meeting the provisions in s.28 of the WCA, if a worker under the Alberta WCA is injured in another jurisdiction, the worker may be entitled to claim compensation or some other legal remedy either in the jurisdiction where the accident occurred or in Alberta.

The injured worker must sign a written election to choose between:

- claiming compensation under the WCA, or
- claiming compensation or the other remedy under the law of the other jurisdiction.

**10. Does the Interjurisdictional Agreement include any special provisions for individual industries?**

Yes. An agreement has been reached between the Canadian jurisdictions regarding how employers in specified transportation industries may pay premiums. The Alternative Assessment Procedure (AAP) is optional, and allows participating employers to pay premiums to the workers' compensation authority in each jurisdiction for the workers who reside and work there, notwithstanding that a part of their work may be done in other jurisdictions. Employers must be in a specified transportation industry in all jurisdictions, and must have coverage for all their workers, as defined by the legislative requirements in their respective jurisdictions.

*This policy question is effective January 1, 2009*

**11. When is this policy application effective?**

This policy application (Application 5 - Coverage Outside of Alberta) is effective May 21, 2002, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

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**Previous versions**

- [Policy 0601 Part II - September 2018](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II - April 2018](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II - January 2004](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II - September 2002](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II - June 2002](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II - January 2002](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II - July 1999](#)
- [Policy 0601 Part II \(consolidated manual 1st Issue\) - June 1998](#)