

**Alberta WCB  
Policies &  
Information**

Chapter:

**PRICING**

Subject:

**CLASSIFICATION**

Authorization:

**BoD Resolution 98/03/13**

Date:

**March 24, 1998**

**REFERENCE:**

[Workers' Compensation Act, RSA 2000, Sections 1, 14, 18, 28, 91, 97-99, 101, 105, 109, 114, 134, and 135\(1\)](#)  
[Workers' Compensation Regulation, Schedule A](#)

**POLICY:**

Employers are assigned an industry classification based on the *business* they conduct in Alberta rather than the occupations of the workers employed by the business.

WCB establishes *industry classifications* which are categorized into *rate groups* for the purpose of determining *premium rates*.

This policy is effective June 1, 1998, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

**INTERPRETATION**

**1.0 Business**

The business of an employer consists of all activities common to the provision, or production, and sale of related goods and services. This includes management, administration, marketing, and other functions which are supportive of, incidental, or integral to the employer's primary business activities. WCB also considers activities that are contracted out when determining the industry classification assigned to an employer's business.

More than one legal entity may be included when determining the industry classification. When two or more legal entities in a business relationship contribute to the provision or production of common goods or services, WCB may assign the same industry classification to each entity.

**Alberta WCB  
Policies &  
Information**

Chapter:

**PRICING**

Subject:

**CLASSIFICATION**

Authorization:

**BoD Resolution 98/03/13**

Date:

**March 24, 1998**

**2.0 Industry Classification**

Industry classifications are established by WCB to group employers involved in similar businesses. For each industry classification, WCB maintains statistics on assessable earnings and claim costs to provide information for setting premium rates.

**3.0 Rate Groups**

Rate groups are established by WCB to provide a proper statistical base for reliable rate setting. Industry classifications with similar activities and experience are combined into rate groups. However, when appropriate, rate groups may consist of a single industry classification.

**4.0 Premium Rates**

Premium rates are set for each industry classification and reflect the loss experience of the respective rate groups. Premium rates are set annually, in an amount sufficient to meet WCB’s funding requirements as set out in the *Workers’ Compensation Act (WCA)* and Policy 01-01, *Funding Policy*.

Premium rates will include amounts for funding the cost of claims and for funding of WCB’s administration.

Premium rates may include amounts for funding of WCB pricing incentives, safety association grants, and a portion of the Alberta Government’s Occupational Health and Safety programs. In addition, they may also include provisions for adjusting deficits or surpluses in reserves and the fund balance (see Policies 07-02, *Experience Records* and 07-03, *Financial Administration of Safety Association Grants*).

Premium rates are expressed as a rate per \$100 of assessable earnings.

**Alberta WCB  
Policies &  
Information**

Chapter:

**PRICING**

Subject:

**CLASSIFICATION**

Authorization:

**BoD Resolution 98/03/13**

Date:

**March 24, 1998**

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

**Application**

- 1 – [General](#)
- 2 – [Employers Operating in More Than One Industry](#)
- 3 – [Changes to an Employer's Classification](#)

**Previous versions**

- [Policy 0701 Part I - September 2018](#)
- [Policy 0701 Part I - April 2018](#)
- [Policy 0701 Part I - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0701 Part I - December 2014](#)
- [Policy 0701 Part I - January 2004](#)
- [Policy 0701 Part I - January 2002](#)
- [Policy 0701 Part I \(consolidated manual 1st Issue\) - June 1998](#)