



# NOTICE TO OREGON EMPLOYERS

Nov. 9, 2016

## What Employers Will Pay for Workers' Compensation in 2017

**Please share this notice with your payroll and risk management staff**

- **Insurance premium:** The pure premium rate for 2017 will **decrease by an average 6.6 percent** compared with 2016. Pure premiums are the base rates, before insurer costs are added. The impact on your company's rate depends on a variety of factors, including industry and individual claim records. Your next policy renewal with your insurer will reflect this change.
- **Premium assessment:** Insurance companies (on your behalf), self-insured employers, and self-insured employer groups pay an assessment to the state to administer workers' compensation and workplace safety programs. The assessment **will increase from 6.2 percent to 6.8 percent** of premiums paid. Self-insured employers and self-insured employer groups pay an additional amount into a reserve fund to pay claims in the event of an insolvency.

Self-insured employers pay 7.0 percent in 2017. Public-sector self-insured employer groups pay 7.0 percent. Private-sector self-insured employer groups pay 7.8 percent.

### Employer Payroll Information

**Workers' Benefit Fund (cents-per-hour) assessment:** Employers and employees split this assessment, which employers collect through payroll. This assessment will **decrease from 3.3 cents to 2.8 cents** per hour or partial hour worked by each individual that an employer must cover or chooses to provide with workers' compensation coverage.

Employers must pay at least half the amount (1.40 cents per hour) and deduct no more than half from workers' wages.

Each quarter, employers use Forms OQ and OTC to report and pay the assessment through Oregon's Combined Payroll Tax Reporting System. For information about calculating the assessment, go to [oregon.gov/DCBS/Pages/wbf.aspx](http://oregon.gov/DCBS/Pages/wbf.aspx), call 503-378-2372, or email [wbfassess.fabs@oregon.gov](mailto:wbfassess.fabs@oregon.gov).

This fund pays for benefits to injured workers and their beneficiaries. The fund also provides money to employers to help injured workers return to work.

For more information about workers' compensation costs:

- Contact your insurer.
- Call the Oregon Department of Consumer and Business Services at 800-452-0288 (toll-free) or visit [http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/dir/wc\\_cost/index.html](http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/dir/wc_cost/index.html).



Oregon Department of  
Consumer and Business Services  
350 Winter St. NE  
P.O. Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405

**2017 Workers' Compensation  
Premium Rate Notice Enclosed**

## Workers' Compensation Services for Employers

The Department of Consumer and Business Services provides many programs and services that drive Oregon's success in keeping workers' compensation costs low and in improving workplace safety and health.

**Workers' Compensation Division:** Help with return-to-work programs and issues such as medical and dispute resolution, coverage, compliance, and reconsideration. 800-452-0288 (toll-free), [workcomp.questions@oregon.gov](mailto:workcomp.questions@oregon.gov), [wcd.oregon.gov](http://wcd.oregon.gov).

**Oregon OSHA:** Help with safety and health programs, accident investigation, on-site consultations, and technical trainings. 800-922-2689 (toll-free), [osha.oregon.gov](http://osha.oregon.gov).

**Small Business Ombudsman for Workers' Compensation:** Help with questions on premium calculation, audit disputes, coverage, claims and policy provisions, outreach, and education. 503-378-4209, [wc.advocate@oregon.gov](mailto:wc.advocate@oregon.gov), [oregon.gov/DCBS/SBO](http://oregon.gov/DCBS/SBO).

An employer cannot require a worker injured on the job to get treatment from a specific health care provider. Doing so could result in a civil penalty. Form 801 "Report of Job Injury or Illness" is being revised to have employers and workers acknowledge this prohibition. Your insurer will provide updated forms.

### Important reminder