



# Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Department of Consumer and Business Services  
Workers' Compensation Division  
350 Winter St. NE  
PO Box 14480  
Salem, OR 97309-0405  
1-800-452-0288, (503) 947-7810  
TTY (503) 947-7993  
www.wcd.oregon.gov

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**TO:** Oregon workers' compensation insurers, self-insured employers, third-party administrators, and other interested parties

**SUBJECT:** Correction of the state's average weekly wage

On August 17, 2006, the Department of Consumer and Business Services was notified of an error in the calculation of the state's average weekly wage (SAWW) for the fourth calendar quarter of 2005. Initially reported as \$715.60, the corrected SAWW for that quarter is **\$721.43**. The effective date of this rate change for workers' compensation benefits is retroactive to July 1, 2006.

This correction primarily affects the payment of temporary disability benefits, but may also affect previously determined permanent partial disability impairment and vocational assistance eligibility determinations. To correct underpaid benefits, affected workers must be paid the difference between the amounts actually paid and the amounts that would have been due had the correct SAWW been used to calculate benefits. In addition, for workers whose vocational assistance eligibility was calculated using the cost-of-living matrix, in accordance with Oregon Administrative Rule 436-120-0007, eligibility must be rechecked using the enclosed corrected cost-of-living matrix in Bulletin 124.

We regret that this error occurred and will do our best to minimize the impact. Oregon insurers and self-insured employers should act quickly to implement corrected rates and ensure full benefits are paid retroactive to July 1, 2006. The following revised documents are enclosed:

- Bulletin 111, "Computation of temporary disability, permanent disability, and fatal benefits as related to Oregon's average weekly wage"
- Addendum to Bulletin 124, "Revised cost-of-living matrix and vocational assistance fee schedule"

The division has updated its calculators for determining temporary and permanent disability available on our Web site at [www.wcd.oregon.gov](http://www.wcd.oregon.gov). The permanent partial disability calculator can be found on the lower right-hand corner on our Web site. Click on "Audits" in the left-hand menu for the temporary disability calculator.

If you have questions, please contact Dan Schmelling, Benefit Consultation Unit manager, (503) 947-7559.

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John L. Shilts, Administrator  
Workers' Compensation Division

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