

Interim relief (effective September 1, 2018)

Interim relief is financial support given to employers while a decision is under review or appeal. It is provided in *exceptional circumstances* and is intended to ensure employers are able to continue operating while waiting for a decision to be made.

The Dispute Resolution and Decision Review Body (DRDRB) or the Appeals Commission will make the decision to approve a request for interim relief. Requests for interim relief are addressed separately and independently from the issue under review or appeal.

This legislation came into effect on **September 1, 2018** and applies to requests for review or appeal received on or after September 1, 2018.

I have a decision that is under review or appeal. What criteria do I need to meet to be eligible for interim relief?

You may be eligible for interim relief if you meet *all* three of the following conditions:

- You have an arguable case. This means that the evidence presented is plausible and, if accepted by the decision maker, could substantially affect the decision under review or appeal; and
- The decision under review or appeal impacts assessed premiums by more than \$500; and,
- You demonstrate that the waiting time to have your matter resolved will place you in significant financial hardship such as:
 - the inability to continue your operations, or,
 - you are forced to lay off a significant portion of your workforce.

How do I get the interim relief?

The first step is to submit your formal request for review or appeal.

You have three options to begin this process:

1. If you have not already done so, please complete and submit the online [request for review](#). If you have indicated you are experiencing financial hardship, you will receive an email with further information on how to request interim relief benefits.

2. If you cannot access the online form to submit a request for review, you can download and complete the [G040 PDF form](#). You will also need to download and complete a [G041E PDF form](#) to request interim relief benefits. Please send the completed forms by email to drdrb@wcb.ab.ca.
3. If you have already submitted a request for review in any version other than the online form, you will need to complete the [G041E PDF form](#) to request interim relief benefits. Please send the completed form to drdrb@wcb.ab.ca. You can also request a paper version by calling toll-free at 1-866-922-9221.

Is my application for interim relief kept private?

Yes it is. The application itself, attachments and status of your application for interim relief is not shared with anyone other than the Dispute Resolution and Decision Review Body (DRDRB) or the Appeals Commission that make the decision on whether to grant interim relief.

What type of documentation do I need to send in with my application?

To help WCB assess necessitous circumstance, you must provide current financial documentation that can help us determine if you meet the criteria. Here are some examples:

- records of employment (ROEs) documenting a lay off of employees.
- bank account and financial information.
- documentation of loans, bankruptcy.

If my application is successful, what is the amount of interim relief I would receive?

If your application is successful, WCB will provide interim relief in the form of delayed collection of the disputed portion(s) of your assessment while the matter is under review or appeal. Undisputed portions of your invoice will still be payable.

Interim relief is not the same as cost relief. Once a final decision is made on the issue under review or appeal, your account will be reconciled. This means, that if your request for review or appeal is unsuccessful, the portion of your assessment that was granted interim relief, will be due and payable.

How long will I receive the interim relief?

Once interim relief is approved, it is paid from the date of your application for interim relief until a decision is made at either appeal level (DRDRB or Appeal Commission). However, if at any point in the review or appeal period, you no longer meet the conditions, it will be discontinued.

I am an employer whose worker is receiving interim relief. Will I be charged for the costs associated with the interim relief?

No, costs resulting from paying interim relief are not charged to the employer unless the worker's request for review or appeal is successful and the worker is granted additional wage-loss benefits. In this case, the interim relief already paid becomes part of the wage-loss benefits owed and are then charged to you.

Example:

- The worker receives \$500 in interim relief while waiting for a decision to be made on their request for review or appeal. You, as the employer, are not charged for this.
- The decision results in the worker being granted \$1,500 in additional wage-loss benefits.
- Because the worker already received \$500 in interim relief they will only receive an additional \$1,000.
- You, as the employer, will be charged for the full \$1,500. The \$500 initially paid as interim relief and not charged to you, is moved to your account because it is now part of the wage-loss benefits paid to the worker.

Where can I find more information about interim relief?

You will find more information in [Policy 01-10](#). Remember, it is effective September 1, 2018 and applies to requests for review or appeal received on or after September 1, 2018. See our [worker fact sheet](#) for information on when a worker may be eligible for interim relief. For information regarding the Board's request and management of your personal information, see [Policy 01-02, Part 1](#).

Have questions? Please contact us toll-free at 1-866-922-9221.

