

**Alberta WCB  
Policies &  
Information**

Chapter:

**INJURIES**

Subject:

**GENERAL**

Authorization:

**BoD Resolution 96/10/53**

Date:

**November 26, 1996**

**APPLICATION 8: PERSONAL BELONGINGS**

1. *Under what conditions will WCB replace or repair personal belongings which are lost, damaged, or destroyed in an accident?*

Under s.79(a) of the *WCA*, compensation for personal belongings is limited to clothing, dentures, eyeglasses, artificial eyes or limbs, or hearing aids.

With the exception of eyeglasses, the loss, damage or destruction must occur as a direct consequence of an accident causing personal injury, in accordance with s.24(1)(a) of the *WCA*. A direct consequence includes, for example, clothing cut off at the hospital (for eyeglasses, see Questions 3 and 4).

Loss, damage, or destruction of personal belongings such as jewelry, watches, wallets, etc., is not compensable, regardless of personal injury. The loss or destruction of protective equipment such as hard hats, goggles, etc., is not usually compensable.

2. *When are receipts required?*

Unless requested, receipts are not usually required for clothing, but are necessary for eyeglasses.

3. *What are the special provisions for eyeglasses?*

As with clothing, entitlement is extended when the worker is wearing the eyeglasses and loss, damage or destruction results from an accident; however, the conditions of s.24(1)(a) need not be applied to eyeglass claims. This means a personal injury is not required for entitlement, so entitlement may be extended in the following circumstances:

- loss, damage, or destruction resulting from putting on or taking off necessary safety equipment (e.g., goggles, helmets, etc.)
- loss, damage, or destruction resulting from an employment hazard (e.g., brushing away an insect or other reflexive protective movement)

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*Eyeglasses (continued)*

- pitting or scratching resulting from an isolated unusual incident
- eyeglasses or contact lenses which, although not being worn, are damaged or destroyed while remaining in the worker's possession having been removed due to a particular circumstance of employment (e.g., sprayed with oil, fogging, etc.)
- loss, damage, or destruction resulting from an accident in which the worker is personally involved, but in which the eyeglasses were carried on the person, rather than being worn

Entitlement is not usually extended in the following circumstances:

- eyeglasses falling from a worker's pocket
- wear and tear of eyeglasses even when employment causes the wear and tear (e.g., pitting of eyeglasses over a period of time)
- loss, damage, or destruction when eyeglasses are removed from the face for routine cleaning

Claims which do not meet any of the above circumstances will be considered on the basis of individual merit.

**4. *What costs will WCB consider when repairing and replacing damaged or destroyed eyeglasses?***

Normally WCB will only replace the damaged or destroyed part of the eyeglasses. For example, if only the frame is broken, WCB will cover the replacement of the frame, but not the lenses. No medical fee is paid unless personal injury is suffered or suspected. An exception may be made if the lenses cannot be fitted into the new frame.

If only one lens is broken, WCB will normally replace only that lens with a lens of the same type, style, and description.

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***Repairing and replacing  
damaged or destroyed  
eyeglasses (continued)***

An eye exam, medical fee, new frame, or second lens is not part of the entitlement. An eye exam is covered if the prescription is not available and cannot be identified from the broken lens. If the subsequent eye exam indicates a new prescription for the unbroken lens, WCB will replace both lenses. An exception is also made if the lenses are ordinary unhardened lenses. In such cases, WCB will provide for an eye exam and a new pair of eyeglasses with hardened lenses.

WCB will provide for an eye exam and a new pair of eyeglasses when both lenses are broken or when the frame and both lenses are broken.

Workers who choose to obtain insurance on their eyeglasses or contact lenses are responsible for payment of the premiums.

**5. *Does WCB replace clothing worn or damaged as a result of wearing a prosthesis or appliance or through use of a wheelchair?***

WCB may replace worn or damaged clothing provided the prosthesis, appliance, or wheelchair is required as a result of an accident [see s.79(b) of the *WCA* and Policy 04-07, *Services for Workers with Severe Injuries*].

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

This policy application (Application 8 – Personal Belongings) is effective February 15, 1997, except when noted otherwise in a specific policy section(s).

**Previous versions**

- [Policy 0301 Part II - August 2015](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part II - January 2007](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part II - January 2004](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part II - June 2002](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part II - January 2002](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part II - June 2001](#)

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- [Policy 0301 Part II - December 2000](#)
- [Policy 0301 Part II \(consolidated manual 1st Issue\) - February 1997](#)