

Council of Construction Associations
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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #509 May 26, 2011

Only 3 Days Left for Your Comments on Experience Rating Review!

Only three days remain until the consultation is closed on the Experience Rating system for construction.

Your letters are critical! If you have sent in a letter, thank you for taking the time.

If you have not yet sent a letter, please consider doing this before end of business on May 30, 2011. And encourage others to write.

ER varies the base assessment rate that the individual employer pays. The rate increases or decreases from the base rate according to the employer's claim costs.

The Construction Industry now has a maximum merit rate of 33.3% and a maximum demerit rate of 33.3%. There is strong pressure from the WorkSafeBC administration to move the Construction Industry to the maximum merit/demerit limits of 50/100.

The COCA Directors strongly believe that the 33/33 levels should be retained. Our industry has a highly transient workforce that moves from project to project; soft tissue injuries are very difficult to diagnose and to manage; the recent recession has dramatically increased the duration of claims and created major financial challenges. We are in a fragile recovery stage; this is not the time to make a major change to serve the convenience of the WorkSafeBC administrative process.

Please take the time to email a letter to WorkSafeBC.

Here are two new Sample Letters: a Short Sample Letter and a Detailed Sample Letter

Short Sample Letter

Send by email to: policy@worksafebc.com
Attention: Cameron Angus
Senior Policy Analyst
Policy and Research Division
WorkSafeBC

Dear Mr. Angus:

My company opposes making any change to the existing Experience Rating system. We want to keep the maximum discount level of 33.3% and the maximum surcharge level of 33.3%.

The limits of at 33% discount and 33% surcharge are the right level for our industry. We do not want to assume the higher risk that could come with a change to make the maximum discount 50% and the maximum surcharge 100%.

Please keep the 33/33 levels for Experience Rating.

Sincerely,

Detailed Sample Letter (you may chose to use all or parts of this letter)

Send by email to: policy@worksafebc.com
Attention: Cameron Angus
Senior Policy Analyst
Policy and Research Division
WorkSafeBC

Dear Mr. Angus:

Our company supports the current maximum discount level of 33.3% and the maximum surcharge level of 33.3%. We believe that a maximum discount of 50% and a maximum surcharge of 100% creates too much risk for our industry.

The current system has worked well over eleven years. We now have the lowest ever average assessment rate for the Construction Industry. We also have the lowest ever Injury Rate. We have all worked hard to achieve this.

We are very concerned that the current environment is far too uncertain to be making changes. We are slowly recovering from a massive global recession. There is talk of a second major downturn. We need a stable assessment system, not a major change with unknown impact.

We are a unique industry.

We have no permanent worksites; our work starts and completes on a varying schedule. Workers start with each part of the project that requires their skills and finishes when those skills are no longer required. No other industry operates in this way.

Soft tissue injuries are a major impact. They make up 43% of all injuries in construction – and the injuries can be unknowingly assigned as a compensation claim from one employer to the next.

Any change to a 50/100 Experience Rating system will drive more companies to the underground economy – where worker safety receives little attention.

Please consider these factors and continue the construction industry at the 33/33 maximum discount and surcharge for Experience Rating.

Sincerely Yours,