

Council of Construction Associations
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COCA Update on WorkSafeBC Activities #561 August 14, 2013

WorkSafeBC Preliminary Assessment Rates for 2014

The preliminary assessment rates for 2014 have been announced by WorkSafeBC. The rates are described as preliminary – they have not yet been approved by the WorkSafeBC Board of Directors. This approval is expected by October 2013. (The preliminary rates normally become the actual rates.)

The Industrial, Commercial and Institutional has increased to: **\$3.59 per \$100 of payroll.**

As predicted by COCA, there are some major challenges before us in terms of costs.

The return on the WorkSafeBC investment portfolio has decreased significantly in recent years, as a result of the worldwide recession that began in 2008 and still lingers. As a result, more of the money to fund the cost of compensation claims has to come from employer assessments.

The Duration of Construction claims – the average time off on claim – continues at record high levels of about 75 days. This is up from an average of 50 days only five years ago.

With fewer jobs to go back to, workers may be staying off longer on claims. Construction employers may also be more focused on securing new jobs rather than on Return to Work plans for injured workers.

We need to accelerate a safe and durable Return to Work in order to reduce our rates.

The best way to improve performance on Return to Work is to seek help from the WorkSafeBC Construction Nurse Line when you need it. The service is free (you already pay for it with your assessments).

**For help with: Return to Work, Disability Management, or Claim Updates, call:
604-279-8155, or 1-877-633-6233**

For help with claims management in general -- contact the [BC Construction Safety Alliance](http://www.bccsa.ca) for advice and assistance. Vernita Hsu is their injury management coordinator. She can be reached at 604-636-3686 or vhsu@bccsa.ca.

The changes in some of the construction rate groups are shown below.
All rates shown below are in dollars per \$100 payroll.

Examples of preliminary rates decreases are:

- Construction labour supply decreases from \$4.46 to \$4.36
- Low Slope Roofing decreases from \$5.42 to \$5.37

- Steep Slope Roofing decreases from \$9.66 to \$8.99

Examples of preliminary rates increases are:

- Building Demolition increases from \$5.64 to \$6.20
- Concrete Placing increases from \$3.57 to \$3.67
- Electrical Work increases from \$1.81 to \$1.99
- Highway Maintenance increases from \$2.86 to \$3.14
- Home Building increases from \$5.53 to \$6.08
- Industrial, Commercial and Institutional increases from \$3.27 to \$3.59
- Masonry increases from \$3.30 to \$3.63
- Painting or Wallpapering increases from \$3.62 to \$3.98
- Plumbing, Heating, Residential Air Conditioning increases from \$2.55 to \$2.80
- Structural Moving increases from \$5.38 to \$5.91

No Change

- Crane Operation remains at \$3.73
- Power Pole, Powerline, or Transmission Line Installation, Service and Repair remains at \$3.71

The complete list of WorkSafeBC preliminary rates for 2014 can be viewed online at:
http://www.worksafebc.com/insurance/premiums/2014_prelim_rates/classification/browse_sectors_and_subsectors/subsector.asp?id=7210