

Subject: Client Services

Policy No. CS-03

Effective: 2001-04-01

Section Reference: **28(5), 30** - *1992 Workers' Compensation Act*

## **POLICY STATEMENT**

### **CS-03: Relocation of Disabled Workers**

#### **General Information**

Vocational Rehabilitation is aimed at reintegrating a worker into the workforce. As part of a worker's overall rehabilitation plan, vocational rehabilitation may involve reeducation or retraining.

It may not be always possible for a worker to receive re-education or retraining in their local community. This policy addresses relocation of a worker for the purpose of re-education and retraining.

All claims decisions are appealable to the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board.

#### **Policy**

##### **A. Definitions**

###### **a. Household Effects**

"Household effects" **includes** personal clothing, furniture, kitchen appliances, playground equipment, and other items used in the principal residence and/or domestic garden; **excludes** any items listed in **APPENDIX A** and any commodities that by law and/or tariff restriction cannot be moved with household effects.

###### **b. Travel Status**

"Travel status" means the eligibility of a worker to have travelling expenses paid while absent from home as part of the worker's rehabilitation plan for re-education or retraining, or relocating to a new work location with the approval of the Claims Adjudicator.

## **B. Re-Education or Retraining**

The Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board may relocate a worker for reeducation or retraining if determined necessary by the Rehabilitation Counsellor in consultation with the worker. Each case shall be dealt with on its individual merits.

The need to relocate for re-education or retraining shall be identified in a worker's rehabilitation plan. The rehabilitation plan shall indicate the worker's intent and Willingness to move, and the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board's obligation and commitment to assist a worker to relocate. All relocation expenses shall be identified and cost estimates provided for consideration. A cost/benefit analysis report will be done as part of the rehabilitation plan.

If relocation is approved, the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall assist a worker to relocate both within and outside of the Yukon Territory for re-education or retraining.

The order of priority shall be as follows:

1. relocation in the Yukon first; and
2. relocation in the rest of Canada second.

## **C. Relocation Assistance**

The Claims Adjudicator is responsible for relocation assistance approval upon consultation with the Rehabilitation Counsellor. On approval of relocation, the

Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall cover the cost to move a worker from their normal place of residence for re-education or retraining. The Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall cover the cost to return the worker to their normal place of residence at the end of the re-education or retraining.

When a worker is relocated for re-education or retraining for a period of ten months or longer, the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board may, upon request, relocate a worker's spouse and dependants. The Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall determine, on a case by case basis, whether to relocate a worker's spouse and dependants.

The Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board may cover the cost to move a worker and spouse and dependants to a new location on completion of the worker's re-education or retraining if the worker does not choose to return to their normal place of residence.

#### **D. Transportation**

##### **Air Transportation**

The Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall pay the cost of reasonable return air transportation for a worker, and spouse and dependants when determined appropriate by the board as follows:

##### **Yukon Resident**

1. Relocation within the Yukon

The maximum dollar sum equivalency of full fare economy airfare from the worker's normal place of residence to Whitehorse, Yukon, return.

2. Relocation outside of the Yukon

The maximum dollar sum equivalency of full fare

economy airfare from the worker's normal place of residence to Vancouver, British Columbia, return.

#### Non-Yukon Resident

3. The maximum dollar sum equivalency of full fare economy airfare from Whitehorse to Vancouver, British Columbia, return.

### **Ground Transportation**

The use of public transportation shall be encouraged when it is available and practical.

The Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall pay the cost of reasonable return ground transportation for a worker and spouse and dependants when determined appropriate by the board. The cost of ground transportation shall not exceed the cost of air transportation.

A decision to allow alternate transportation shall be based on whether the overall costs and mode of transportation may impede the recovery and return of the worker to the workforce. Authorization to use an alternate mode of transportation may be made on a discretionary basis by the Claims Adjudicator in consultation with the Rehabilitation Counsellor.

### **Return Transportation**

On completion of re-education and/or retraining, if a worker does not choose to return to their normal place of residence, an amount not to exceed the amount that would have been paid had they returned to their normal place of residence, may be paid to relocate the worker and the worker's spouse and/or dependants to a new location. Receipts must be provided.

## **E. Household Effects**

If determined appropriate, by the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, that a worker and his/her family relocate for the period of a worker's re-education or retraining, the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall pay the cost of transporting household effects to the new location and return as follows:

#### Yukon Resident

1. Relocation within the Yukon

The dollar sum equivalency of current commercial movers' rates to move 4,500 kilograms per household from the worker's normal place of residence to Whitehorse, Yukon, return.

2. Relocation outside of the Yukon

The dollar sum equivalency of current commercial movers' rates to move 4,500 kilograms per household from the worker's normal place of residence to Vancouver, British Columbia, return.

#### Non-Yukon Resident

3. The dollar sum equivalency of current commercial movers' rates to move 4,500 kilograms per household from Whitehorse to Vancouver, British Columbia, return.

#### **F. Travel Status**

While a worker is on travel status, the worker is eligible to receive the travel rate expenditure allotments as outlined in Appendix A of the Board Travel Policy Statement.

The Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board shall not pay any daily travel rate expenditures for the worker's spouse and/or dependants.

## **G. Travel Status Duration**

A worker may be on travel status for a maximum of 30 days. Travel status may be extended under certain circumstances at the discretion of the Vice-President, Operations.

## **H. Two Residences**

If a worker's family does not relocate with a worker and the worker must maintain two residences while attending re-education or retraining, the worker may be eligible to receive a monthly allowance of \$1,000.

## **I. Other Costs**

All other costs incurred by the worker and his/her family that are not identified in policy are the responsibility of the worker.

## **References (for information only)**

Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board  
Rehabilitation Policy Statement  
Vocational Rehabilitation Policy Statement  
Board Travel Policy Statement  
Claimant and Witness Travel Policy Statement  
Recovery of Overpaid Compensation Policy Statement  
Board Order 1996/02  
Board Order 2000/01, Revoking Board Order 1996/02

## **History**

1. Policy, Relocation of Disabled Workers Policy Statement, effective January 13, 1994.
2. Policy, Relocation of Disabled Workers Policy Statement, Appendix A and B amended November 16, 2000.
3. Policy, Relocation of Disabled Workers Policy Statement, amended February 15, 2001; effective February 15, 2001.
4. Policy, Relocation of Disabled Workers Policy Statement, amended April 24, 2001; effective April 1, 2001.

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## **Appendix A: Exclusions**

The following goods and/or items shall not be included in the allowable weight limit of 4,500 kilograms per household or shipped at the expense of the Workers' Compensation, Health and Safety Board:

- building materials (lumber, bricks, prefabricated sections of houses);
- tubs, sinks, furnaces or any similar item that is generally included with housing;
- farm equipment of any description;
- live potted plants;
- sandbags, containers of dirt or soil of any description;
- livestock and pets;
- food stuffs;
- greenhouses;
- boats, automobiles, trucks, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles, outboard motors;
- automotive or industrial and/or commercial parts or components;
- snowblowers, lawnmowers, garden tillers, limited to one each per household;
- jewellery, coin collections, art-work, posters, collectibles or items of no established market value; or
- canning jars or other glass containers or bottles (limit of 48 per household).

