



Victoria Government Gazette

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SPECIAL

Subordinate Legislation Act 1994,
VICTORIAN WORKCOVER AUTHORITY
Accident Compensation Regulations 2000

Notice is given in accordance with section 11 of the **Subordinate Legislation Act 1994**, that a Regulatory Impact Statement (RIS) has been prepared in relation to the proposed Accident Compensation Regulations 2000.

The objective of the proposed Regulations is to prescribe those matters authorised or required for the achievement of the objectives of the **Accident Compensation Act 1985** and the **Accident Compensation (WorkCover Insurance) Act 1993**.

The proposed Regulations will specify various forms and evidentiary documents required for administration of the Acts, including: the employer claim report; self-insurer returns of rateable remuneration; the forms of search warrants; and in respect of compensation paid to workers resident overseas, the medical certificate and statement of identity. The proposed Regulations also specify maximum amounts for allowances not included in 'remuneration' and amounts not attributable to labour and not remuneration for certain contracts, including three new contracts. These are contracts for cabinet makers, electricians and plumbers. Other details necessary to determining the level of weekly payments of compensation, as well as certain circumstances in which an application for a settlement can be made, are also prescribed. A number of matters are specified in relation to self-insurance including: the minimum requirements for eligibility to apply for approval as a self-insurer; the assessment fee for application for approval as a self-insurer; certain terms and conditions of approval; insurance in respect of contingent liabilities; and the contributions payable to the WorkCover Authority Fund in return for services provided to self-insurers.

The assessment of costs and benefits in the RIS focuses on those key proposed regulations that have been identified as having the potential of imposing an appreciable burden on stakeholders. These regulations relate to self-insurers' contributions, approval of self-insurers and the

assessment fee for application for approval as a self-insurer. One of the purposes of the regulatory proposal is to more closely align the size of self-insurers' contributions to the Fund, with the estimated value of the benefits received, either directly or indirectly, from WorkCover programs and services. As such, the additional costs to be incurred by self-insurers are best described as a transfer payment to WorkCover for the benefits estimated to be currently available, but not paid for. Thus, WorkCover expects changes in respect of the self-insured sector to be neutral in economic terms. The proposed assessment fee for application for approval as a self-insurer was assessed as not materially impacting on self-insurers.

WorkCover considered a number of alternative methods of calculating the contributions payable by self-insurers. However, none of the alternatives was considered to provide a more appropriate means by which recovery of WorkCover's costs for programs and services could be calculated.

Public comments are invited on the RIS and the proposed Regulations. Copies may be obtained by contacting WorkCover publications (telephone: (03) 9641 1333; fax: (03) 9641 1330) or may be down loaded from WorkCover's website: www.workcover.vic.gov.au

Written submissions should be directed to the following address by no later than close of business 17 January 2001. All submissions received will be treated as public documents.

Accident Compensation Regulatory Package,
Chairperson, Accident Compensation Policy
Group, Legislative Services Branch, Victorian
WorkCover Authority, GPO Box 4306,
Melbourne, Vic. 3001.

Any enquiries about the draft Regulations should be directed to Michael Harold (telephone: (03) 9641 1427) while enquiries on the RIS should be directed to the Regulatory Assessment and Support Section (telephone: (03) 9641 1373).

BOB CAMERON
Minister for WorkCover

Gazette Services

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