Dear Senators PATRICK, Guthrie, Ward-Engelking, and Representatives HARTGEN, Anderson, King:

The Legislative Services Office, Research and Legislation, has received the enclosed rules of the Industrial Commission:


Pursuant to Section 67-454, Idaho Code, a meeting on the enclosed rules may be called by the cochairmen or by two (2) or more members of the subcommittee giving oral or written notice to Research and Legislation no later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the rules' analysis from Legislative Services. The final date to call a meeting on the enclosed rules is no later than 01/03/2018. If a meeting is called, the subcommittee must hold the meeting within forty-two (42) days of receipt of the rules' analysis from Legislative Services. The final date to hold a meeting on the enclosed rules is 02/01/2018.

The germane joint subcommittee may request a statement of economic impact with respect to a proposed rule by notifying Research and Legislation. There is no time limit on requesting this statement, and it may be requested whether or not a meeting on the proposed rule is called or after a meeting has been held.

To notify Research and Legislation, call 334-4834, or send a written request to the address on the memorandum attached below.
MEMORANDUM

TO: Rules Review Subcommittee of the Senate Commerce & Human Resources Committee and the House Commerce & Human Resources Committee

FROM: Senior Legislative Research Analyst - Elizabeth Bowen

DATE: December 15, 2017

SUBJECT: Industrial Commission


The Industrial Commission submits notice of proposed rulemaking at IDAPA 17.02.10 and 17.02.11.

17.02.10

This rule provides and clarifies requirements for prompt servicing of workers' compensation claims, including a requirement that the surety's initial decision to accept or deny a claim should be made within thirty days. Negotiated rulemaking was conducted, and there is no anticipated negative fiscal impact on the state general fund. The Commission states that this rulemaking is authorized pursuant to Sections 72-408, 72-508, and 72-806, Idaho Code.

17.02.11

This rule is the same as the above rule, except it applies to self-insured employers instead of sureties. Negotiated rulemaking was conducted, and there is no anticipated negative fiscal impact on the state general fund. The Commission states that this rulemaking is authorized pursuant to Sections 72-408, 72-508, and 72-806, Idaho Code.

cc: Industrial Commission
Mindy Montgomery
IDAPA 17 – IDAHO INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION

17.02.10 – ADMINISTRATIVE RULES OF THE INDUSTRIAL COMMISSION UNDER THE WORKERS’ COMPENSATION LAW -- SECURITY FOR COMPENSATION -- INSURANCE CARRIERS

DOCKET NO. 17-0210-1701

NOTICE OF RULEMAKING – PROPOSED RULE

AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has initiated proposed rulemaking procedures. The action is authorized pursuant to Sections 72-508, 72-408, and 72-806, Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: Public hearing(s) concerning this rulemaking will be scheduled if requested in writing by twenty-five (25) persons, a political subdivision, or an agency, not later than November 15, 2017.

The hearing site(s) will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodation must be made not later than five (5) days prior to the hearing, to the agency address below.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a nontechnical explanation of the substance and purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

The Commission believes it important to clarify the regulations that define how benefits must be calculated and paid, and the time frame within which sureties must take certain actions. Without these changes, sureties may not know the Industrial Commission’s expectations, and workers will not be protected against untimely payment.

This change would require sureties or third-party administrators to make an initial decision to accept or deny a claim for an injury or occupational disease within 30 days after the surety and/or third-party claims administrator receives knowledge of the same, in accordance with Section 72-806, Idaho Code; further, the change allows Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) payments to be calculated using the employee’s pay period and establishes when TPD payments are due.

This language would ‘mirror’ the language in IDAPA 17.02.11 for Self-insureds.

FEE SUMMARY: The following is a specific description of the fee or charge imposed or increased: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars ($10,000) during the fiscal year resulting from this rulemaking: N/A

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: Pursuant to Section 67-5220(1), Idaho Code, negotiated rulemaking was conducted. The Notice of Intent to Promulgate Rules – Negotiated Rulemaking was published in the June 7, 2017 Idaho Administrative Bulletin, Vol. 17-6, pages 48-49.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE: Pursuant to Section 67-5229(2)(a), Idaho Code, the following is a brief synopsis of why the materials cited are being incorporated by reference into this rule: N/A

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning the proposed rule, contact Patti Vaughn, Benefits Administration Manager, (208) 334-6063. Anyone may submit written comments regarding this proposed rulemaking. All written comments must be directed to the undersigned and must be delivered on or before November 22, 2017.

DATED this 20th day of September 2017.

Mindy Montgomery, Director
Industrial Commission
700 S. Clearwater Lane
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0041
Phone: (208) 334-6000
Fax: (208) 334-2321
THE FOLLOWING IS THE PROPOSED TEXT OF DOCKET NO. 17-0210-1701
(Only Those Sections With Amendments Are Shown.)

010. DEFINITIONS.
For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions are applicable:

01. Adjuster. An individual who adjusts workers' compensation claims.

02. Claims Administrator. An organization, including insurers, third party administrators, independent adjusters, or self-insured employers, that services workers' compensation claims.

03. Indemnity Benefits. All payments made to or on behalf of workers' compensation claimants, including temporary or permanent total or partial disability benefits, permanent partial impairment benefits, death benefits paid to dependents, retraining benefits, and any other type of income benefits, but excluding medical and related benefits.

04. Indemnity Claim. Any claim made for the payment of indemnity benefits.

(BREAK IN CONTINUITY OF SECTIONS)

051. REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING IDAHO WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIMS FILES.
All insurance carriers and licensed adjusters servicing Idaho workers' compensation claims shall comply with the following requirements:

01. Idaho Office.

a. All insurance carriers and licensed adjusters servicing Idaho workers' compensation claims shall maintain an office within the state of Idaho. The offices shall be staffed by adequate personnel to conduct business.

b. The insurance carrier shall authorize and require a member of its in-state staff or a licensed, resident claims adjuster to service and make decisions regarding claims pursuant to Section 72-305, Idaho Code. Answering machines, answering services, or toll free numbers outside of the state will not suffice. That authority shall include, but is not limited to, the following responsibilities:

i. Investigate and adjust all claims for compensation;

ii. Pay all compensation benefits due;

iii. Accept service of claims, applications for hearings, orders of the Commission, and all process which may be issued under the Workers’ Compensation Law;

iv. Enter into compensation agreements and lump sum settlements with Claimants; and

v. Provide at the insurance carrier’s expense necessary forms to any worker who wishes to file a claim under the Workers’ Compensation Law.

c. As staffing changes occur and, at least annually, the insurance carrier or licensed adjuster shall submit to the Industrial Commission Secretary the names of those authorized to make decisions regarding claims pursuant to Section 72-305, Idaho Code. Each authorized insurance carrier shall designate only one (1) claims
administrator for each policy of workers' compensation insurance. (3-25-16)

02. Claim Files. All Idaho workers’ compensation claim files shall be maintained within the state of Idaho in either hard copy or immediately accessible electronic format. Claim files shall include, but are not limited to:

a. First Report of Injury and Claim for Benefits;

b. Copies of bills for medical care;

c. Copy of lost-time computations, if applicable;

d. Correspondence reflecting reasons for any delays in payments (i.e., awaiting medical reports, clarification, questionable items on bills, etc.), the resolution of such delays and acceptance or denial of compensability;

e. Employer’s Supplemental Report; and

f. Medical reports.

03. Correspondence. All original correspondence involving adjusting decisions regarding Idaho workers’ compensation claims shall be authorized from and maintained at in-state offices. (3-25-16)

04. Date Stamp. Each of the documents listed in Subsections 051.02 and 051.03 shall be date-stamped with the name of the receiving office on the day received, and by each receiving agent or vendor acting on behalf of the claims office. (4-7-11)

05. Notice and Claim. All First Reports of Injury, Claims for Benefits, notices of occupational illnesses and fatalities shall be sent directly to the in-state adjuster or insurance carrier. The original copy of the First Report of Injury, Claim for Benefits and notices of occupational illness and fatality shall be sent directly to the Industrial Commission. (4-7-11)

06. Compensation. All compensation, as defined by Section 72-102, Idaho Code, must be issued from the in-state office. (4-7-11)

07. Checks and Drafts. Checks must be signed and issued within the state of Idaho; drafts are prohibited.

a. The Commission may, upon receipt of a written Application for Waiver, grant a waiver from the provisions of Subsections 051.06 and 051.07 of this rule to permit an insurance carrier to sign and issue checks outside the state of Idaho.

b. An Application for Waiver must be accompanied by an affidavit signed by an officer or principal of the insurance carrier attesting to the fact that the insurance carrier is prepared to comply with all statutes and rules pertaining to prompt payments of compensation.

c. All waivers shall be effective from the date the Commission issues the order granting the waiver. A waiver shall remain in effect until revoked by the Industrial Commission. At least annually, staff of the Industrial Commission may review the performance of any insurance carrier for which a waiver under this rule has been granted to assure that the insurance carrier is complying with all statutes and rules pertaining to prompt payments of compensation.

d. If at any time after the Commission has granted a waiver, the Commission receives information permitting the inference that the insurance carrier has failed to provide timely benefits to any claimant, the Commission may issue an order to show cause why the Commission should not revoke the waiver; and, after affording the insurance carrier an opportunity to be heard, may revoke the waiver and order the insurance carrier to comply with the requirements of Subsections 051.06 and 051.07 of this rule.
08. **Copies of Checks.** Copies of checks and/or electronically reproducible copies of the information contained on the checks must be maintained in the in-state files for Industrial Commission audit purposes. A copy of the first income benefit check, showing signature and date, shall be sent to the Industrial Commission the same day of issuance. (3-25-16)

09. **Prompt Claim Servicing.** Prompt claim servicing includes, but is not limited to: (4-7-11)

   a. Making an initial decision to accept or deny a claim for an injury or occupational disease within thirty (30) days after the claims administrator receives knowledge of the same. The worker shall be given notice of that initial decision in accordance with Section 72-806, Idaho Code. Nothing in this rule shall be construed as amending the requirement to start payment of income benefits no later than four (4) weeks or twenty-eight (28) days from the date of disability under the provisions of Section 72-402, Idaho Code.

   b. Payment of medical bills in accordance with the provisions of IDAPA 17.02.09, Medical Fees, Sections 031, 032, 033 and 034.

   c. Payment of income benefits on a weekly basis, unless otherwise approved by the Commission. (4-7-11)

   i. The first payment of income benefits under Section 72-408, Idaho Code, shall constitute application by the insurance carrier for a waiver to pay Temporary Total Disability (TTD) benefits on a bi-weekly basis, Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) benefits on other than a weekly basis, Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) benefits based on permanent impairment and Permanent Total Disability (PTD) benefits every twenty-eight (28) days, rather than on a weekly basis.

   ii. Such waiver application shall be granted upon receipt and remain in effect unless revoked by the Industrial Commission in accordance with Subparagraph 051.09.c.iii. below.

   iii. If at any time after a waiver has been granted pursuant to this section the Commission receives information permitting the inference that the insurance carrier has failed to service claims in accordance with Idaho law, or that such waiver has created an undue hardship on a claimant, the Commission may issue an order to show cause why the insurance carrier should not revoke that waiver, and after affording the insurance carrier an opportunity to be heard, may revoke the waiver with respect to all or certain claimants and order the insurance carrier to comply with the requirements of Subsection 051.09.c. of this rule.

   d. Payment of the first Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) benefit based on permanent impairment no later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the medical report providing the impairment rating. The first payment shall include payment of benefits retroactive to the date of medical stability.

   e. Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) payments shall be calculated using the employee’s pay period, whether weekly, bi-weekly, or semi-monthly. For employees paid pursuant to any other schedule, TPD benefits shall be calculated semi-monthly. TPD payments owed for a particular pay period shall issue no later than seven (7) days following the date on which employee is ordinarily paid for that pay period.

10. **Audits.** The Industrial Commission will perform periodic audits to ensure compliance with the above requirements. (4-7-11)

11. **Non-Compliance.** Non-compliance with the above requirements may result in the revocation of the authority of an insurance carrier to write workers’ compensation insurance in the state of Idaho, or such lesser sanctions as the Industrial Commission may impose. (4-7-11)
AUTHORITY: In compliance with Section 67-5221(1), Idaho Code, notice is hereby given that this agency has initiated proposed rulemaking procedures. The action is authorized pursuant to Sections 72-508, 72-408, and 72-806, Idaho Code.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE: Public hearing(s) concerning this rulemaking will be scheduled if requested in writing by twenty-five (25) persons, a political subdivision, or an agency, not later than November 15, 2017.

The hearing site(s) will be accessible to persons with disabilities. Requests for accommodation must be made not later than five (5) days prior to the hearing, to the agency address below.

DESCRIPTIVE SUMMARY: The following is a nontechnical explanation of the substance and purpose of the proposed rulemaking:

The Commission believes it important to clarify the regulations that define how benefits must be calculated and paid, and the time frame within which sureties must take certain actions. Without these changes, sureties may not know the Industrial Commission’s expectations, and workers will not be protected against untimely payment.

This change would require self-insured employers or third-party administrators to make an initial decision to accept or deny a claim for an injury or occupational disease within 30 days after the self-insured employer and/or third-party claims administrator receives knowledge of the same, in accordance with Section 72-806, Idaho Code; further, the change allows Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) payments to be calculated using the employee’s pay period and establishes when TPD payments are due.

This language would ‘mirror’ the language in IDAPA 17.02.10 for Insurance Carriers.

FEE SUMMARY: The following is a specific description of the fee or charge imposed or increased: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT: The following is a specific description, if applicable, of any negative fiscal impact on the state general fund greater than ten thousand dollars ($10,000) during the fiscal year resulting from this rulemaking: N/A

NEGOTIATED RULEMAKING: Pursuant to Section 67-5220(1), Idaho Code, negotiated rulemaking was conducted. The Notice of Intent to Promulgate Rules – Negotiated Rulemaking was published in the June 7, 2017 Idaho Administrative Bulletin, Vol. 17-6, pages 50-51.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE: Pursuant to Section 67-5229(2)(a), Idaho Code, the following is a brief synopsis of why the materials cited are being incorporated by reference into this rule: N/A

ASSISTANCE ON TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, SUBMISSION OF WRITTEN COMMENTS: For assistance on technical questions concerning the proposed rule, contact Patti Vaughn, Benefits Administration Manager, (208) 334-6063. Anyone may submit written comments regarding this proposed rulemaking. All written comments must be directed to the undersigned and must be delivered on or before November 22, 2017.

DATED this 20th day of September, 2017.

Mindy Montgomery, Director
Industrial Commission
700 S. Clearwater Lane
P.O. Box 83720
Boise, Idaho 83720-0041
Phone: (208) 334-6000
Fax: (208) 334-2321
010. DEFINITIONS.
For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions are applicable: (4-7-11)

01. Adjuster. An individual who adjusts workers’ compensation claims. (3-25-16)

02. Claims Administrator. An organization, including insurers, third party administrators, independent adjusters, or self-insured employers, that services workers’ compensation claims. (3-25-16)

03. Compensation. All benefits payable under the provisions of the Idaho Workers Compensation Law. (3-29-12)

04. Indemnity Benefits. All payments made to or on behalf of workers’ compensation claimants, including temporary or permanent total or partial disability benefits, partial or permanent impairment benefits, death benefits paid to dependents, retraining benefits, and any other type of income benefits, but excluding medical and related benefits. (4-7-11)

05. Indemnity Claim. Any claim made for the payment of indemnity benefits. (4-7-11)

06. Payroll. The gross amount paid by an employer for salaries, wages or commissions earned by its own direct employees, but not including any money paid to another entity or received from another entity for leased employees. (4-7-11)

(BREAK IN CONTINUITY OF SECTIONS)

051. REQUIREMENTS FOR MAINTAINING IDAHO WORKERS’ COMPENSATION CLAIMS FILES.
All self-insured employers and licensed adjusters servicing Idaho workers’ compensation claims shall comply with the following requirements: (4-7-11)

01. Idaho Office. All self-insured employers and licensed adjusters servicing Idaho workers’ compensation claims shall maintain an office within the state of Idaho. The offices shall be staffed by adequate personnel to conduct business. The self-insured employer shall designate and require an Idaho licensed, resident adjuster to make decisions regarding claims pursuant to Section 72-305, Idaho Code. As staffing changes occur and, at least annually, the self-insured employer or licensed adjuster shall submit to the Industrial Commission Secretary the names of those authorized to make decisions regarding claims pursuant to Section 72-305, Idaho Code. Answering machines, answering services, or toll free numbers outside of the state will not suffice. (3-25-16)

02. Claim Files. All Idaho workers’ compensation claim files shall be maintained within the state of Idaho in either hard copy or immediately accessible electronic format. Claim files shall include, but are not limited to: (4-7-11)

a. First Report of Injury and Claim for Benefits; (4-7-11)

b. Copies of bills for medical care; (4-7-11)

c. Copy of lost-time computations, if applicable; (4-7-11)

d. Correspondence reflecting reasons for any delays in payments (i.e., awaiting medical reports,
clarification, questionable items on bills, etc.), the resolution of such delays and acceptance or denial of compensability;

\(4-7-11\)

e. Employer’s Supplemental Report; and

\(4-7-11\)

f. Medical reports.

\(4-7-11\)

03. Correspondence. All original correspondence involving adjusting decisions regarding Idaho workers’ compensation claims shall be authorized from and maintained at in-state offices.

\(3-25-16\)

04. Date Stamp. Each of the documents listed in Subsections 051.02 and 051.03 shall be date-stamped with the name of the receiving office on the day received, and by each receiving agent or vendor acting on behalf of the self-insured employer.

\(4-7-11\)

05. Notice and Claim. All First Reports of Injury, Claims for Benefits, notices of occupational illnesses and fatalities shall be sent directly to the in-state adjuster or self-insured employer. The original copy of the First Report of Injury, Claim for Benefits and notices of occupational illness and fatality shall be sent directly to the Industrial Commission.

\(4-7-11\)

06. Compensation. All compensation, as defined by Section 72-102, Idaho Code, must be issued from the in-state office.

\(4-7-11\)

07. Checks and Drafts. Checks must be signed and issued within the state of Idaho; drafts are prohibited.

\(4-7-11\)

a. The Commission may, upon receipt of a written Application for Waiver, grant a waiver from the provisions of Subsections 051.06 and 051.07 of this rule to permit a self-insured employer to sign and issue checks outside the state of Idaho.

\(4-7-11\)

b. An Application for Waiver must be accompanied by an affidavit signed by an officer or principal of the self-insured employer, attesting to the fact that the self-insured employer is prepared to comply with all statutes and rules pertaining to prompt payment of compensation.

\(4-7-11\)

c. All waivers shall be effective from the date the Commission issues the order granting the waiver. A waiver shall remain in effect until revoked by the Industrial Commission. At least annually, staff of the Industrial Commission may review the performance of any self-insured employer for which a waiver under this rule has been granted to assure that the self-insured employer is complying with all statutes and rules pertaining to prompt payment of compensation.

\(4-7-11\)

d. If at any time after the Commission has granted a waiver, the Commission receives information permitting the inference that the self-insured employer has failed to provide timely benefits to any claimant, the Commission may issue an order to show cause why the Commission should not revoke the waiver; and, after affording the self-insured employer an opportunity to be heard, may revoke the waiver and order the self-insured employer to comply with the requirements of Subsections 051.06 and 051.07 of this rule.

\(4-7-11\)

08. Copies of Checks. Copies of checks and/or electronically reproducible copies of the information contained on the checks must be maintained in the in-state files for Industrial Commission audit purposes. A copy of the first income benefit check, showing signature and date, shall be sent to the Industrial Commission the same day of issuance.

\(3-25-16\)

09. Prompt Claim Servicing. Prompt claim servicing includes, but is not limited to:

\(4-7-11\)

a. Making an initial decision to accept or deny a claim for an injury or occupational disease within thirty (30) days of the date the claims administrator receives knowledge of the same. The worker shall be given notice of that initial decision in accordance with Section 72-806, Idaho Code. Nothing in this rule shall be construed as amending the requirement to start payment of income benefits no later than four (4) weeks or twenty-eight (28) days from the date of disability under the provisions of Section 72-402, Idaho Code.

\(\square\)
b. Payment of medical bills in accordance with the provisions of IDAPA 17.02.09, Medical Fees, Sections 031, 032, 033, and 034. (4-7-11)

c. Payment of income benefits on a weekly basis, unless otherwise approved by the Commission. (4-7-11)

i. The first payment of income benefits under Section 72-408, Idaho Code, shall constitute application by the self-insured employer for a waiver to pay Temporary Total Disability (TTD) benefits on a bi-weekly basis, Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) benefits on other than a weekly basis, Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) benefits based on permanent impairment and Permanent Total Disability (PTD) benefits every twenty-eight (28) days, rather than on a weekly basis. (____)

ii. Such waiver application shall be granted upon receipt and remain in effect unless revoked by the Industrial Commission in accordance with Subparagraph 051.09.c.iii., below. (____)

iii. If at any time after a waiver has been granted pursuant to this section the Commission receives information permitting the inference that the self-insured employer has failed to service claims in accordance with Idaho law, or that such waiver has created an undue hardship on a claimant, the Commission may issue an order to show cause why the Commission should not revoke that waiver, and after affording the employer an opportunity to be heard, may revoke the waiver with respect to all or certain claimants and order the self-insured employer to comply with the requirements of Subsection 051.09.c. of this rule. (____)

d. Payment of the first Permanent Partial Disability (PPD) benefit based on permanent impairment no later than fourteen (14) days after receipt of the medical report providing the impairment rating. The first payment shall include payment of benefits retroactive to the date of medical stability. (____)

e. Temporary Partial Disability (TPD) payments shall be calculated using the employee’s pay period, whether weekly, bi-weekly, or semi-monthly. For employees paid pursuant to any other schedule, TPD benefits shall be calculated semi-monthly. TPD payments owed for a particular pay period shall issue no later than seven (7) days following the date on which employee is ordinarily paid for that pay period. (____)

10. Audits. The Industrial Commission will perform periodic audits to ensure compliance with the above requirements. (4-7-11)

11. Non-Compliance. Non-compliance with the above requirements may result in the revocation of the authority of a self-insured employer to self-insure its workers’ compensation obligations in the state of Idaho, or such lesser sanctions as the Industrial Commission may impose. (4-7-11)