

## Group Rating Safety Requirement Update

BWC has approved some changes that impact employers participating in a group rating program. One of the changes require an additional two hours of safety training for employers that have a claim in the "green year" or previous year of the rating period. For the 2009 group rating period this would be claims that occurred in 2008 and /or 2007. This is in addition to the previous requirements outlined in Section 5 of the Participation Agreement each member of the group rating program receives annually.

The OBWC has made it a statutory requirement that a Group Rating Program substantially improves accident prevention and claim handling of its participating members. Each Participant must, in good faith, comply with all federal, state, and local occupational and health regulations, and shall exert diligent efforts toward accident prevention. Participants are encouraged to work with the Group Administrator, as identified in Section 6 of the Participation Agreement, and/or OFBF staff to develop and implement a safety program that will reduce loss ratios, and upon request, shall participate in such program. Failure to participate in such program may result in the Participant's rejection from this group or any successor group for the succeeding coverage period.

Participant may be required to:

- (1) Provide a written safety and health policy to its employees signed by an officer of the Participant that outlines Participant's values and commitment to workplace safety and health.
- (2) Promote the belief that safety management is an organizational value.
- (3) Involve its employees in the safety management process and recognize its employees who participate in safety management.
- (4) Provide regular communications on safety and health to keep all employees informed and to encourage feedback and suggestions from employees.
- (5) Provide orientation and training for all of its employees.
- (6) Review publications provided by OFBF that provide the employees with information on how to safely accomplish their job requirements.
- (7) Assign an employee the role of coordinating safety efforts for the Participant.
- (8) Work on early return-to-work strategies to assist injured or ill workers' in returning to work,
- (9) Work with the OFBF to perform internal verification to evaluate the effectiveness of the Participant's safety program, to include audits, surveys and record analysis.
- (10) Work with OFBF on any other safety program issues that OFBF deems necessary including OSHA required programs to comply with Rule 4123-17-68 of the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Division of Safety and Hygiene Group Sponsor Safety Program Requirements.

Participant also agrees to attend at least one safety seminar sponsored by OFBF or sponsored or approved by the Ohio Bureau of Workers' Compensation, Division of Safety and Hygiene during the term of this Agreement that is directly related to the above parameters of the effective safety process.