

Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal Rules of Procedure for Injured Worker and Witness Travel

Purpose: To establish criteria for payment of travel expenses incurred by injured workers and witnesses in the course of travel required by the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal (WCAT).

GENERAL INFORMATION:

The WCAT may require injured worker or witnesses to travel, either to hearings, or for medical examination. Requirement for travel by injured workers or witnesses will be determined by the tribunal on a case-by-case basis. All travel must be authorized by the tribunal in advance to be eligible for expense reimbursement.

1. Application

The rule of procedure for travel expenses shall apply to all claims.

2. Authorization of Travel to Hearings

The appeal committee shall determine whether it is necessary for injured workers and witnesses to travel to hearings or whether information may be obtained through other means.

3. Travel by Claimants and witnesses

The tribunal shall pay travel expenses for an injured worker when that travel is required by the appeal committee. Travel arrangements will be made by WCAT staff.

4. Travel by Witnesses

The tribunal shall only reimburse witness travel when WCAT determines that their attendance is required at a hearing.

5. Travel by Companions

The tribunal will pay travel expenses for a companion when the appeal committee has determined the injured worker or witness is medically or legally unfit to travel alone.

6. Eligible Travel Expenses

Eligible travel expenses include transportation, accommodation, meals and incidentals. Travel must be authorized by the tribunal in advance to be eligible for expense reimbursement.

7. Rates for Travel Expenses

The appeal tribunal will pay travel expenses in accordance with the rates set out in Appendix A of Yukon Worker's Compensation Health and Safety Board (WCHSB) Policy BD-02, Travel. Distances for allowances claimed for travel by private vehicle must be from a current map of highways.

8. Accommodation

Injured workers and witnesses are eligible for actual reimbursement of lodging at a commercial establishment as selected by the tribunal. Rates for accommodation shall be in accordance with Appendix A of Policy BD-02, Travel.

9. Alternate or Private Accommodation

When an injured worker or witness makes arrangements to stay in alternate or private accommodation and the combined costs for accommodation, per diem and local transportation do not exceed the costs of staying at a commercial accommodation, reimbursement will be made in accordance with the rates as set out in Policy BD-02, Travel.

MOTION: To approve the Rules for Injured Workers and Witness Travel.

MOVED BY: W. C. Gryba

SECONDED BY: H. Hermanson

All in agreement. Motion carried.

Approval date: April 23, 2009

Effective date: April 23, 2009