

<sup>1</sup> On June 12, 1998 appellant, a 50-year-old administrative officer, filed a claim alleging that her wrist and hand condition was causally related to typing in the course of her employment. OWCP accepted her claim for left wrist tenosynovitis. On June 3, 2010 it issued a schedule award for a one percent impairment of her left upper extremity.

In this case, appellant simply made a claim for a schedule award. She was not in receipt of schedule award benefits nor was OWCP attempting to terminate benefits. Appellant had no vested right to a schedule award under the fifth edition of the A.M.A., *Guides*. In *Harry D. Butler*,<sup>2</sup> the Board noted that Congress delegated authority to the Director of OWCP regarding the specific methods by which permanent impairment is to be rated. Pursuant to this authority, the Director adopted the A.M.A., *Guides* as a uniform standard applicable to all claimants, and the Board has concurred in the adoption.<sup>3</sup> On March 15, 2009 the Director exercised authority to advise that as of May 1, 2009 all schedule award decisions of OWCP should reflect use of the sixth edition of the A.M.A., *Guides*.<sup>4</sup> The applicable date of the sixth edition relates to when a schedule award decision is reached, not to the date of maximum medical improvement or when the schedule award claim was filed. Accordingly,

**IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT** the October 21, 2010 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is affirmed.

Issued: October 25, 2011  
Washington, DC

Richard J. Daschbach, Chief Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Alec J. Koromilas, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge  
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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<sup>2</sup> 43 ECAB 859 (1992).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* at 866.

<sup>4</sup> FECA Bulletin No. 09-03 (issued March 15, 2009). The FECA Bulletin was incorporated in the Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *Schedule Award & Permanent Disability Claims*, Chapter 2.808.6(a) (January 2010).