

and (2) the latter impairment in whole or in part would duplicate the compensation payable for the preexisting impairment.² The Board has held that OWCP must adequately explain how the latter impairment duplicated the compensation the claimant previously received under a separate file number.³

In this case, OWCP did not detail how appellant's 10 percent permanent impairment of the left lower extremity under File No. xxxxxx810 duplicated the schedule award previously paid for 30 percent permanent impairment of the same member under File No. xxxxxx589. The case record, however, is limited to File No. xxxxxx810. Pursuant to its procedures, OWCP has determined that cases should be combined when correct adjudication of the issues depends on frequent cross-reference between files.⁴ In order to obtain sufficient clarification as to whether appellant's recent rating would duplicate the prior schedule award in whole or in part, his claims must be doubled. On remand, OWCP shall combine File Nos. xxxxxx810 and xxxxxx589 and, following this and other development deemed necessary, issue an appropriate decision.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the February 4, 2013 Office of Workers' Compensation Programs decision be set aside and the case remanded for further action consistent with this order.

Issued: July 25, 2013
Washington, DC

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

Colleen Duffy Kiko, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia Howard Fitzgerald, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

² *Id.* at § 8108; 20 C.F.R. § 10.404(d). *See also R.B.*, Docket No. 09-1786 (issued July 1, 2010).

³ *T.S.*, Docket No. 09-1308 (issued December 22, 2009).

⁴ Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *File Maintenance and Management*, Chapter 2.400.8(c) (February 2000).