

U. S. Department of Labor

Office of Workers' Compensation Programs
Division of Longshore and
Harbor Workers' Compensation
200 Constitution Avenue, Room C-4319
Washington, DC 20210



March 12, 2015

Dear Stakeholders:

The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs has published for public comment a direct final rule and a companion proposed rule that expands the means by which documents and information can be transmitted to and from OWCP and its stakeholders. Because of your interest in the Longshore program, I wanted to notify you of this publication and provide you with a summary of the changes we are proposing.

The Transmission of Documents and Information rule adds new modernized electronic communication options. These new electronic options are meant to supplement, not replace, existing delivery methods that are currently available. For instance, even though we now offer electronic submission of documents through a web portal, any stakeholder may still choose to mail a document to us for inclusion in the case file.

The rule allows easier and more efficient transmission of records to OWCP, enables OWCP to take advantage of the most efficient means of delivery to stakeholders, and provides for electronic service of documents and other communications between the various parties and their representatives. Specifically, the rule:

- enables OWCP to receive digital documents and data through the use of current and future technologies;
- allows OWCP to specify the location(s) for filing forms and documents;
- eliminates the requirement for duplicate submissions of form/documents;
- provides an alternative to the delivery of compensation orders via certified mail by allowing stakeholders to opt to receive orders electronically; and
- allows parties and their representatives to exchange documents electronically, so long as they agree in advance on the method used.

I feel strongly that these new regulations will allow us to provide an enhanced level of service to our stakeholders and simplify communications between stakeholders.

The Direct Final Rule and companion Proposed Rule were published in the Federal Register on March 12, 2015. You may access it on the Federal Register's website directly or through the links provided on our website at <http://www.dol.gov/owcp/dlhwc/index.htm>.

Sincerely,

ANTONIO A. RIOS
Director, Division of
Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation