The Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) Transition to Electronic Payments—What Stakeholders Receiving Paper Checks Need to Know

Starting September 30, 2025, the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) will no longer issue paper checks for benefit payments.

On March 25, 2025, the President of the United States issued Executive Order (EO) 14247, Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account – The White House. The EO declared that continued use of paper-based payments by the Federal Government "imposes unnecessary costs; delays; and risks of fraud, lost payments, theft, and inefficiencies." The EO imposes a September 30, 2025, deadline to transition all paper checks to electronic payments.

Note: It is important that you act quickly so that your payments can continue without interruption.

Claimants

If you are not currently set up to receive electronic payments, then you are required to complete and submit the Standard Form (SF) 1199A "Direct Deposit Sign Up" to receive payments electronically. You can access the SF1199A Direct Deposit Sign-Up Form at this website: https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/files/forms/form-1199a.pdf. Please make sure to include your OWCP case number on your direct deposit form.

Option #1: Return via Electronic Portal:

You may submit your SF 1199A "Direct Deposit Sign Up" form through our Secure Electronic Portal Access Portal SEAPortal. You will need an official Longshore case number and other identifying information to submit documents using SEAPortal. Once uploaded, SEAPortal assigns a unique document control number (DCN). You can use the DCN number to check the status of the document.

Option #2: Return via Mail to:

DLHWC 400 West Bay Street, Suite 63A, Box 28 Jacksonville, FL 32202

Authorized Self-Insured Employers and Insurance Carriers

Any payment due from the Special Fund will be made electronically. Submit your banking information (ABA Routing, Account Number and Account Type) on company letterhead to the assigned OWCP case number via SEAPortal.

Plaintiff Attorney, Medical & Rehabilitation Providers

You must complete and submit a direct deposit form available here - https://www.fiscal.treasury.gov/files/forms/form-1199a.pdf. Submit your form to the assigned OWCP case number via SEAPortal. Please make sure to include your Tax Identification Number (TIN) on your direct deposit form.

<u>Frequently Asked Questions</u>

The following questions are for stakeholders who have questions concerning the mandate that all federal agencies will *<u>discontinue issuing paper checks</u>* (Executive Order 14247).

Question: Who is affected by this Executive Order?

- Answer: Everyone receiving payments from the Special Fund will be affected by this Executive Order.

Question: What does the Executive Order - Modernizing Payments To and From America's Bank Account entail?

- Answer: This Executive Order mandates that, to the extent permitted by law, all payments made by the Federal Government must be issued electronically.

Question: When does the Executive Order become effective?

- Answer: All federal agencies must comply by **September 30, 2025.**

Question: Why is the government implementing this initiative?

- Answer: Disbursement of payments electronically promotes operational efficiency and reliability. Conversely, payment by paper check increases delay in payments; and results in potential fraud, lost payments, theft, and inefficiencies. Thus, the initiative aims to promote the security of financial transactions.

Question: Are there electronic payment options besides direct deposit?

- Answer: Yes, while direct deposit is the preferred method if you have a bank account, you can also opt for the <u>Direct Express</u>® debit card service.