



August 26, 2022

INDUSTRY NOTICE No. 193

TO: INSURANCE CARRIERS AND SELF-INSURED EMPLOYERS UNDER THE LONGSHORE AND HARBOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT as amended, AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS

SUBJECT: Reopening District Offices and Restating Administrative Case Assignment Procedures in the Longshore Program of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP).

Effective August 26, 2022, the Secretary, through his delegated official, the Director, OWCP, is reopening offices for the Longshore Program in Chicago, Illinois and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The Philadelphia location will be a sub-office of the Eastern Compensation District and the Chicago location will be a sub-office of the Southern Compensation District. This action is being taken in accordance with 20 CFR §702.102 and 33 U.S.C. § 939(b) to more efficiently administer the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act ("LHWCA") and its extensions.

As a result, the compensation districts established by the Secretary, the Eastern, Western, and Southern Districts, will have the following suboffices:

- **Eastern Compensation District** –Boston, Massachusetts; New York, New York; Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and Norfolk, Virginia.
- **Western Compensation District** –Long Beach, California; San Francisco, California; and Seattle, Washington.
- **Southern Compensation District** –Jacksonville, Florida; New Orleans, Louisiana; Chicago, Illinois; and Houston, Texas.

The Secretary may transfer cases between districts and offices to evenly distribute workload.

Effective August 26, 2022, all newly created LHWCA, Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act ("OCSLA"), and Nonappropriated Fund Instrumentalities Act ("NAFIA") claims where injuries occur within the United States will be assigned to the appropriate suboffice within the Eastern, Western, or Southern compensation district based on the place of injury. The OWCP claims examiner assigned to handle the case may, however, be located anywhere within the compensation district where the suboffice is located.

Additionally, all newly created cases will be distributed for assignment on a rotating basis among the sub-offices including Chicago and Philadelphia. The only exceptions are:

- Defense Base Act (“DBA”) cases where claimant resides in the United States: These cases will continue to be assigned to a sub-office based on where the claimant resides. *See* Industry Notice 122.
- DBA cases where the claimant resides outside of the United States and NAFIA cases where injury occurs outside of the United States and the claimant resides outside of the U.S.: These cases will continue to be assigned to the sub-office based on place of injury. However, consistent with 20 CFR § 704.101 and prior district office consolidations set out in prior Industry Notices (Numbers 106, 115, 174, and 175), the OWCP has determined that cases involving injuries occurring in areas formerly assigned to:
 1. District 1 will be assigned to the Eastern Compensation District, sub-office in Boston, Massachusetts.
 2. District 2 will be assigned to the Eastern Compensation District, sub-office in New York, New York.
 3. District 10 will be assigned to the Southern Compensation District, sub-office in Chicago, Illinois.
 4. Districts 14 and 15 will be assigned to the Western Compensation District, sub-office in Long Beach, California.

The list of compensation districts and their respective sub-offices will be viewable online effective August 26, 2022. All questions concerning this Industry Notice should be directed to OWCP, DFELHWC Director.

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