



September 17, 2026

Notice No. 210

**NOTICE TO INSURANCE CARRIERS, SELF-INSURED EMPLOYERS UNDER THE
LONGSHORE AND HARBOR WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT AND ITS EXTENSIONS,
AND OTHER INTERESTED PERSONS**

**SUBJECT: Maximum and Minimum Compensation Rates under the Longshore
Act, Effective October 1, 2026, Adjustments of Permanent Total Disability and
Death Cases**

Section 6(b)(3) of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA) provides that prior to October 1 of each year, based on the national average weekly wage (NAWW) for the three calendar quarters ending June 30 of that year, the Secretary of Labor shall determine the NAWW to be applicable for the 12-month period beginning October 1. The applicable NAWW for the period beginning October 1, 2026, and ending September 30, 2027, is \$1,081.96.

Minimum and Maximum Rates

Section 6(b)(1) provides that the maximum rate of compensation under this Act shall not exceed 200 percent of the NAWW. Therefore, the maximum compensation rate for total disability and death is \$2,163.92 (200 percent of \$1,081.96). Compensation for disability subject to this maximum should be paid at 66 2/3 percent of the employee's average weekly wage (AWW), as determined under Section 10, subject to the limitation of \$2,163.92.

The minimum compensation rate payable for disability incurred after October 1, 2026, is \$540.98 per week, which is 50 percent of the NAWW. However, if an employee's AWW is less than this amount, he or she receives his or her entire AWW as compensation for total disability. The minimum rate does not apply to employees covered by the Defense Base Act.

In computing death benefits covered by this period, the AWW of the deceased employee shall not be less than the national average weekly wage (\$1,081.96) as prescribed in section 6(b). In addition, under the provisions of the 1984 Amendments, the total weekly death benefits shall not exceed the lesser of (1) AWW of the deceased or (2) 200 percent of the NAWW. The 200 percent maximum benefit is \$2,163.92 per week and is applicable to cases in which the death occurs during the period October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, except for District of Columbia Compensation Act (DCCA)ⁱ cases.

Annual Adjustments

Under Section 10(f) and 10(h) of the Act, compensation or death benefits payable for permanent total disability or related death cases incurred prior to October 1, claimant/beneficiary is entitled to cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) for compensation for permanent total disability or related death. Under Section 10(f) (1) & (2), any entitlement to a COLA is based on the increase in percentage between the preceding and current NAWW; or 5%, whichever is less. The calculated increase for October 1, 2026, reflects **3.90%**. Therefore, this year's applicable increase from October 1, 2026, through September 30, 2027, will be limited to **3.90%**.

Insurance carriers or self-insured employers may use the information in this notice to determine the increase and report to us that the adjustment has been made by issuing an LS-208 as prescribed by Section 30(b) and (e) of the Act.

In case of questions about implementing these mandatory adjustments, the district offices or the OWCP National Office, Longshore Division (Telephone: (202) 513-6809) may be contacted. For DCCA cases, contact the D.C. Government, Department of Employment Services (Telephone: (202) 671-3093).

Ryan Jansen
Acting Director, Division of
Longshore and Harbor
Workers' Compensation

ⁱ District of Columbia Compensation Act of 1928 which is applicable only to injuries which occurred prior to July 26, 1982.