

The Board has duly considered the matter and concludes that the case is not in posture for a decision. OWCP procedures provide that cases should be doubled when a new injury is reported for an employee who previously filed an injury claim for a similar condition and further indicates that the cases should be doubled as soon as the need to do so becomes apparent.² As it referenced the schedule award appellant received in a prior claim for an injury pertaining to his right upper extremity,³ OWCP should have doubled the case files in accordance with its procedures. As the record before the Board does not contain evidence from the prior claim referenced by OWCP and used by it in denying appellant the five percent impairment found by OWCP's medical adviser for his right carpal tunnel syndrome, the Board is unable to properly address and adjudicate the schedule award issue. On remand, OWCP should combine the present case record, File No. xxxxxx965, with File No. xxxxxx607. After combining these two case records, OWCP should consider the evidence contained in the combined case record and, following any necessary further development, issue a *de novo* decision. Accordingly, the January 29, 2010 decision denying an additional schedule award for a permanent impairment of the right upper extremity should be set aside.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs dated August 28, 2012 is set aside and the case remanded for further proceedings consistent with this order of the Board.

Issued: June 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 Federal (FECA) Procedure Manual, Part 2 -- Claims, *Doubling Case Files*, Chapter 2.400.8(c)(1) (February 2000).

³ The record reveals that appellant received a schedule award under File No. xxxxxx607 for a 17 percent impairment of the right upper extremity. OWCP noted that the accepted condition under File No. xxxxxx607 was for right shoulder impingement.