

**United States Department of Labor
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board**

D.G., Appellant)
and) Docket No. 25-0810
U.S. POSTAL SERVICE, DYER POST OFFICE,) Issued: September 18, 2025
Dyer, IN, Employer)

)

Appearances: Case Submitted on the Record
Appellant, pro se
Office of Solicitor, for the Director

DECISION AND ORDER

Before:
ALEC J. KOROMILAS, Chief Judge
PATRICIA H. FITZGERALD, Deputy Chief Judge
VALERIE D. EVANS-HARRELL, Alternate Judge

JURISDICTION

On August 11, 2025 appellant filed a timely appeal from a May 22, 2025 merit decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP). Pursuant to the Federal Employees' Compensation Act¹ (FECA) and 20 C.F.R. §§ 501.2(c) and 501.3, the Board has jurisdiction over the merits of this case.²

ISSUE

The issue is whether OWCP properly suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective May 22, 2025, for failure to complete a Form EN-1032, as requested.

¹ 5 U.S.C. § 8101 *et seq.*

² The Board notes that, following the May 22, 2025 decision, the Board and OWCP received additional evidence. However, the Board's *Rules of Procedure* provides: "The Board's review of a case is limited to the evidence in the case record that was before OWCP at the time of its final decision. Evidence not before OWCP will not be considered by the Board for the first time on appeal." 20 C.F.R. § 501.2(c)(1). Thus, the Board is precluded from reviewing this additional evidence for the first time on appeal. *Id.*

FACTUAL HISTORY

On March 27, 2009 appellant, then a 53-year-old letter carrier, filed a claim for a traumatic injury (Form CA-1) alleging on that date, she sustained a wrist fracture and tooth loss when she tripped and fell on a sidewall, while in the performance of duty. She stopped work the same day. OWCP accepted the claim for distal radial fracture and partial tooth loss. It later expanded acceptance of the claim to include aggravation of preexisting lumbar degenerative disc disease. OWCP paid appellant wage-loss compensation on the supplemental rolls commencing May 11, 2009, and on the periodic rolls commencing February 14, 2010.

By letter dated December 9, 2024, OWCP informed appellant that federal regulations, at 20 C.F.R. § 10.528, required her to execute an affidavit relative to any earnings or employment during the previous 15 months, and that a Form EN-1032 was enclosed for that purpose. It advised her that she must fully answer all questions on the enclosed Form EN-1032 and return it within 30 days, or her benefits would be suspended. OWCP mailed the letter to appellant's last known address of record. No response was received.

By decision dated May 22, 2025, OWCP suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective that date, due to her failure to submit the Form EN-1032, as requested. It advised that, if she were to complete and return the form, her compensation benefits would be restored retroactively to the date they were suspended.

LEGAL PRECEDENT

Section 8106(b) of FECA authorizes the Secretary of Labor to require a partially disabled employee to report his or her earnings from employment or self-employment, by affidavit or otherwise, in the manner and at the times the Secretary specifies.³

Under section 10.528 of OWCP's implementing federal regulations, an employee in receipt of compensation benefits must complete an affidavit as to any work or activity indicating an ability to work, which the employee has performed for the prior 15 months.⁴ If an employee who is required to file such a report fails to do so within 30 days of the date of the request, his or her right to compensation for wage loss is suspended until OWCP receives the requested report. At that time, OWCP will reinstate compensation retroactive to the date of suspension if the employee remains entitled to compensation.⁵

³ 5 U.S.C. § 8106(b).

⁴ 20 C.F.R. § 10.528. *C.B.*, Docket No. 24-0188 (issued May 1, 2024); *A.S.*, Docket No. 23-0437 (issued February 16, 2024). *See also H.B.*, Docket No. 19-0405 (issued June 26, 2019); *M.S.*, Docket No. 18-1107 (issued December 28, 2018); *C.C.*, Docket No. 17-0043 (issued June 15, 2018); *A.H.*, Docket No. 15-0241 (issued April 3, 2015).

⁵ *Id.*; *C.G.*, Docket No. 24-0210 (issued August 27, 2024); *P.M.*, Docket No. 16-0382 (issued May 19, 2016). *See also* 20 C.F.R. § 10.525.

ANALYSIS

The Board finds that OWCP properly suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective May 22, 2025, for failure to complete a Form EN-1032, as requested.

On December 9, 2024 OWCP provided appellant with a Form EN-1032. It advised her that, if she did not completely fully answer all of the questions and return the form within 30 days, her compensation benefits would be suspended. The record reflects that OWCP's letter was properly mailed to appellant's last known address of record, and there is no indication that it was returned as undeliverable.⁶ Under the mailbox rule, a document mailed in the ordinary course of the sender's business practices to the addressee's last known address of record is presumed to be received by the addressee.⁷

The record indicates that appellant failed to timely submit the Form EN-1032 within 30 days of OWCP's request. As noted above, if an employee who is required to file such a report fails to do so within 30 days of the date of the request, his or her right to compensation for wage loss is suspended until OWCP receives the requested report.⁸ Thus, the Board finds that OWCP properly suspended appellant's compensation benefits, effective May 22, 2025, pursuant to 20 C.F.R. § 10.528.

CONCLUSION

The Board finds that OWCP properly suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective May 22, 2025, for failure to complete a Form EN-1032, as requested.

⁶ *C.B.*, *supra* note 4; *A.S.*, *supra* note 4; *see H.B.*, *supra* note 4; *J.J.*, Docket No. 13-1067 (issued September 20, 2013); *Kenneth E. Harris*, 54 ECAB 502, 505 (2003).

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Supra* note 5.

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the May 22, 2025 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is affirmed.

Issued: September 18, 2025
Washington, DC

Alec J. Koromilas, Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Patricia H. Fitzgerald, Deputy Chief Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

Valerie D. Evans-Harrell, Alternate Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board