

ISSUE

The issue is whether OWCP properly suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective November 13, 2025, for failure to complete a financial disclosure statement (Form EN-1032), as requested.

FACTUAL HISTORY

On May 8, 2024 appellant, then a 61-year-old mail handler, filed a traumatic injury claim (Form CA-1) alleging that on May 6, 2024 she injured her back and hip when she fell six feet from a moving recycle truck while in the performance of duty. She stopped work on that date.

OWCP accepted the claim for wedge compression fracture of the second lumbar vertebra, lumbar radiculopathy, and lumbosacral spondylosis without myelopathy or radiculopathy. The record reflects that OWCP commenced paying appellant wage-loss compensation on the periodic rolls effective June 22, 2024.

OWCP periodically requested that appellant submit Form EN-1032 which solicited information about her employment, volunteer work, dependent(s) status, receipt of other federal benefits and/or payments, and third-party settlements.

By letter dated September 8, 2025, OWCP informed appellant that federal regulations required her to execute an affidavit regarding any earnings received or employment performed during the previous 15 months, and that it had enclosed a Form EN-1032 for that purpose. It notified her that she must fully answer all questions on the enclosed Form EN-1032 and return it to OWCP within 30 days, or her benefits would be suspended, pursuant to 20 C.F.R. § 10.528. OWCP mailed the letter to appellant's last address of record.

On September 9, 2025 appellant responded and OWCP received a completed and signed Form EN-1032.

By decision dated November 13, 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 her that if she completed and returned an enclosed copy of the Form EN-1032, her compensation benefits would be restored retroactively to the date of suspension.

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 20 C.F.R. § 10.528 of OWCP's regulations, an employee in receipt of compensation benefits must complete an affidavit as to any work or activity indicating an ability

³ 5 U.S.C. § 8106(b).

to work which the employee has performed in the previous 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

ANALYSIS

The Board finds that OWCP improperly suspended appellant's compensation benefits, effective November 13, 2025, for failure to complete and return a Form EN-1032 as requested.

In a September 8, 2025 letter mailed to appellant's address of record, OWCP informed her that she needed to complete, sign, and return a Form EN-1032 and that failure to return the requested document within 30 days would lead to the suspension of her compensation benefits. Appellant completed, signed, and returned a Form EN-1032 dated September 9, 2025 that was received by OWCP on September 9, 2025. However, OWCP suspended her compensation benefits, effective November 13, 2025, for failing to respond to its September 8, 2025 request.

The Board finds that, as appellant responded to the September 8, 2025 request letter on September 9, 2025, and submitted a completed and signed Form EN-1032 within 30 days of September 8, 2025, she complied with its instructions to complete all the questions. Therefore, OWCP's November 13, 2025 finding that she failed to respond and submit her completed Form EN-1032 is erroneous, and the suspension of her compensation benefits was improper.⁶ The case shall be returned to OWCP for reinstatement of appropriate compensation benefits.

CONCLUSION

The Board finds that OWCP improperly suspended appellant's compensation benefits, effective November 13, 2025, for failure to complete and return a Form EN-1032 as requested.

⁴ 20 C.F.R. § 10.528. *See also* C.C., Docket No. 17-0043 (issued June 15, 2018); A.H., Docket No. 15-0241 (issued April 3, 2015).

⁵ *Id.*; *see also* 20 C.F.R. § 10.525.

⁶ C.S., Docket No. 19-0331 (issued May 24, 2019); S.F., Docket No. 12-1821 (issued January 25, 2013); W.F., Docket No. 11-0877 (issued March 9, 2012).

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the November 13, 2025 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is reversed.

Issued: March 26, 2026
Washington, DC

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

Janice B. Askin, Judge
Employees' Compensation Appeals Board

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