

FACTUAL HISTORY

This case has previously been before the Board on different issues.³ The facts and circumstances of the case as set forth in the Board's prior decision are incorporated herein by reference. The relevant facts are as follows.

On November 5, 2015, appellant, then a 54-year-old letter carrier, filed an occupational disease claim (Form CA-2) alleging that she injured her neck, shoulders, and the left side of her arm causally related to factors of her federal employment, including carrying her mail satchel. OWCP accepted the claim for bicipital tendinitis of the left shoulder and temporary aggravation of cervical disc degeneration at the mid-cervical region.

On February 27, 2017, appellant underwent OWCP-authorized diagnostic arthroscopy, arthroscopic extensive debridement of glenohumeral joint, arthroscopic subacromial decompression, and arthroscopic-assisted biceps tenodesis-subpectoral. OWCP paid her wage-loss compensation on the supplemental rolls, effective that date, and on the periodic rolls effective, March 5, 2017. Appellant returned to full-time limited-duty work on September 12, 2017. She stopped work on August 13, 2021, and OWCP paid her wage-loss compensation for disability from work on the supplemental rolls, effective that date, and on the periodic rolls, effective January 30, 2022.

On October 16, 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 within 30 days, or her benefits would be suspended, pursuant to 20 C.F.R. § 10.528. OWCP mailed the notice to appellant's address of record.

On October 17, 2025, appellant responded that nothing had changed as she was not working and she had not received any money or earnings.

By decision dated December 16, 2025, OWCP suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective that date, for failure to submit the completed EN-1032 form as requested. It advised that, if appellant fully completed and returned an enclosed copy of the EN-1032 form, it would restore her wage-loss compensation benefits retroactive to the date of suspension.

LEGAL PRECEDENT

Section 8106(b) of FECA⁴ 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 Docket No. 18-1438 (issued February 1, 2019); Docket No. 24-0912 (issued December 2, 2024); Docket No. 25-0159 (issued January 13, 2025).

⁴ 5 U.S.C. § 8106(b).

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 during the prior 15 months.⁵ 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.⁶

ANALYSIS

The Board finds that OWCP properly suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective December 16, 2025, for failure to complete a Form EN-1032, as requested.

On October 16, 2025, OWCP provided appellant with an EN-1032 form and notified her that federal regulations required her to answer all questions concerning her employment or earnings. It properly notified her that, if she did not completely answer all questions and return the completed form within 30 days, her benefits would be suspended. The record reflects that OWCP sent the letter to appellant's address of record and there is no indication that it was returned as undeliverable.⁷ Under the mailbox rule, a document mailed in the ordinary course of the sender's business practices to the addressee's last known address is presumed to be received by the addressee.⁸

Appellant was receiving wage-loss compensation and was, therefore, required to complete the EN-1032 form in a timely manner. The case record indicates that appellant failed to submit a completed EN-1032 form within 30 days of OWCP's request. Appellant's failure to file a completed EN-1032 form within 30 days required the suspension of her wage-loss compensation.⁹ Thus, the Board finds that OWCP properly suspended her wage-loss compensation, effective December 16, 2025, pursuant to 20 C.F.R. § 10.528.

CONCLUSION

The Board finds that OWCP properly suspended appellant's wage-loss compensation benefits, effective December 16, 2025, for failure to complete a Form EN-1032, as requested.

⁵ 20 C.F.R. § 10.528; *D.G.*, Docket No. 25-0810 (issued September 18, 2025); *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).

⁶ *Id.*; *A.F.*, Docket No. 26-0081 (issued February 11, 2026); *C.G.*, Docket No. 24-0210 (issued August 27, 2024); *P.M.*, Docket No. 16-0382 (issued May 19, 2016). See also *id.* at § 10.525.

⁷ See *D.G.*, Docket No. 25-0810 (issued September 18, 2025); *K.O.*, Docket No. 23-1150 (issued March 12, 2024); *Kenneth E. Harris*, 54 ECAB 502 (2003).

⁸ *Supra* note 6.

⁹ *Id.*; see *H.W.*, Docket No. 23-0284 (issued March 30, 2023); *J.B.*, Docket No. 22-0162 (issued May 24, 2022); *J.M.*, Docket No. 20-1310 (issued April 21, 2021); *R.C.*, Docket No. 12-135 (issued May 11, 2012).

ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT the December 16, 2025 decision of the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs is affirmed.

Issued: March 25, 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