

Development of Criteria for Compensation of Other Work- Related Illnesses

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Abstract

To update the present ECC list of 29 compensable diseases, ECC and SSS claims for compensation were reviewed covering the period 1989 to 1993. A total of 1326 ECC claims and 2431 SSS records were analyzed. Prevalent work-related diseases noted which shall be proposed for compensation include the following: Musculoskeletal disorders (including Low Back Pain, Carpal Tunnel Syndrome etc.); Occupational Eye Disorders; Psychiatric illness specifically Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, Occupational Skin Disorders (Contact dermatitis, irritant and allergic, chloracne etc.), and Additional infectious diseases (Tetanus, Endemic Viral Diseases and Parasitism). In addition, after review of the ILO Working Document on the Revised List of Occupational Diseases, Diseases caused by chemicals from benzoquinone, n-hexane, methyl n-butyl ketone and chemical asphyxiants (carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide and hydrogen sulfide) were added. Consequent to this, a modification of the format of the ECC list has been proposed (i.e., classifying diseases according to the different occupational hazards: chemical, physical, biologic, including Occupational Lung Disorders and Occupational cancers) as well as the retitling of previous diseases listed. Likewise, recommended guidelines to assess the compensability of both prescribed and non-prescribed diseases is also proposed.