

Work Comp Connection

March 2016 Newsletter



Division of Workers Compensation:
Serving Kansas for more than 100 years

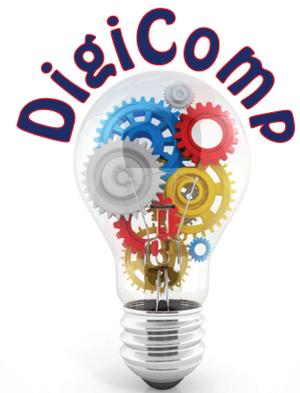
February DigiComp Update

One technology that is being considered for incorporation into the new DigiComp system is videoconferencing capability. Our current statutory framework allows videoconferencing under certain conditions. K.S.A. 44-549(a) states in part, "All hearings upon all claims for compensation under the workers compensation act shall be held by the administrative law judge in person in the county in which the accident occurred, or by videoconferencing or telephone conference unless otherwise mutually agreed by the employee and employer."

GoToMeeting is an online videoconferencing software that at least one administrative law judge has used as often as five to seven times each week for pre-hearing settlement conferences or any type of teleconference where it was advantageous for everyone participating to be able to see each other. In addition, GoToMeeting and similar types of videoconferencing software make it possible to share documents, to make an audio recording of the proceedings and to take screen shots for a visual record of the participants.

Videoconferencing eliminates travel time and expense for the parties involved. This can be significant when the parties have to travel from Kansas City or Wichita to a rural part of the state. In some cases, claimants have moved out of state, sometimes as far as either coast, in which case travel costs could be exorbitant.

Continue to monitor the Work Comp Connection for DigiComp updates.



Judicial Section

The division has 10 administrative law judges throughout the state whose primary function is to conduct timely hearings in contested workers compensation claims and render orders based on the facts presented, as applied to the Workers Compensation Act. For an initial determination of benefits, preliminary hearings are set on a priority basis and preliminary decisions are issued within five days of the hearing. A list of the workers compensation [administrative law judges and their contact information](#) is available online.



Also available online is a listing of the [counties served](#) by each administrative law judge, and a [districting map](#) showing the areas of coverage by each judge. [A survey of attorneys](#) is available online showing attorneys that practice in front of the Workers Compensation administrative law judges and rates them on fairness, knowledge of the law and courtroom decorum.

To set a hearing before an administrative law judge, the worker or employer must file an application for hearing with the division. [Application for Hearing](#) forms are available to download. For more information on hearing procedures, refer to the [K-WC 14 Practice and Procedure Guide](#).

Be sure to keep your email current.
Send updates to WCSeminar@dol.ks.gov.



Review of Kansas Workers Compensation Requirements

Explanations and information can be found in the following materials listed on the [Forms and Publications](#) Web page:

[K-WC 25 & K-WC 250](#) *Workers Compensation Information for Kansas Employers and Employees* - in English and Spanish, both describe the purpose of the law, elections, employers' responsibilities, the categories of disability benefits, how rates are determined, how to obtain insurance, conditions that affect benefits, guidelines for medical treatments, ombudsman, mediation services and more.

[K-WC 27-A & K-WC 270-A](#) *Important Information for Injured Employees* - in English and Spanish, both apply only to injuries on or after April 25, 2013.

[K-WC 40-A](#) *Posting Notice - Workers Compensation Rights and Responsibilities* - applies only to injuries on or after April 25, 2013.



Documenting Continuing Education

For some, it could be several years before you need to submit documentation of credit to maintain licensing or certification. The Division can reissue the documentation of past credits awarded at Workers Compensation Seminars for up to five years from the date you attended.

If you need documentation or have questions about continuing education, e-mail WCseminar@dol.ks.gov.

Coverage Verification Service Mobile Apps

Workers Compensation Coverage Verification Service Mobile Apps from National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) offers a mobile applications called "Workers Compensation Verification" (WCCV) which interfaces with the Kansas Division of Workers Compensation's Coverage Verification Service. The apps are available free through the Apple® Store for iPhones, iPads and the Google store for Android© devices. See [Verify Coverage](#) for a link to a mobile app user guide.



Fast Facts

- The Division posts info on the Department of Labor's Facebook page each Friday and as news develops. Follow us on www.facebook.com/KansasDOL. Catch up with us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/KansasDOL and re-tweet info to your friends.
- **Public WiFi** is available in lobbies and hearing rooms in all regional offices.
- [Find the Latest News](#) about Workers Compensation online.

