

**WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIM SETTLEMENT**  
(No. 67 October 2007)

**1950**

**COMPROMISE AND RELEASE/STIPULATIONS**  
(No. 67 October 2007)

**1950.1**

Region Return-To-Work (RTW) Managers may, without Headquarters' approval, settle workers' compensation claims that include lump sum payment value of up to and including \$49,999 or Stipulated settlements with a permanent disability value of \$49,999 and less than 100% disability. Headquarters' approval is still required for settlements with lump sum payments from a Compromise and Release or Stipulation settlement with a permanent disability value of \$50,000 or above and Stipulated settlements with a permanent disability of 100%.

In those cases requiring Headquarters' approval, the Region Office will recommend a settlement amount to OSHPros in Sacramento Headquarters and provide a detailed summary of the facts that support the recommendation by completing the "Request for Claim Settlement Authority for Settlement Requesting Headquarters Approval". OSHPros is responsible for obtaining the required signatures approving the requested settlement amount and notifying the Region RTW Manager of the authority.

SCIF has the authority to determine settlement amounts without CAL FIRE's input if the requested authority is tardy. Therefore, for settlements that exceed Regional authority, the Regions must provide their recommendation to OSHPros at least 72 hours prior to the date that SCIF needs its decision. OSHPros will confirm back to the field by e-mail or telephone within the same time frame. It should be noted that a written summary of the facts supporting the settlement shall be maintained on file for all claim settlements, regardless of the settlement amount.

If authority for settlement has been granted, and settlement cannot be reached within 12 months or near the end of the fiscal year of approval, Headquarters must re-examine for extension approval. Should the facts of the case change during this time, a new "Request for Claim Settlement Authority for Settlement Requesting Headquarters Approval" must be sent for new approval signatures.

Budget Status May Lower Delegated Authority

CAL FIRE's fiscal status may make it necessary on occasion to lower this delegated authority level temporarily. OSHPros will notify Region RTW Managers by e-mail, telephone, and/or written correspondence. Notice shall include duration of the decreased settlement authority. When that reduced authority period expires, the delegated limit will automatically return to \$49,999. CAL FIRE's financial status may require limitation of the settlement authority to stipulations only. A similar process as the lowering of delegated dollar authority described above will be used to notice the Region RTW Manager for the change in settlement option.

**WAIVER OF REINSTATEMENT**  
(March 2011)

**1950.2**

**SIGNATURE AUTHORITY**  
(No. 63 February 2007)

**1950.3**

The authority to sign the SCIF authorization for settlement is dependent on the amount of the settlement authority being requested by SCIF. For those instances with settlement values below \$50,000, the RTW Manager will determine signature authority.

For those settlement requests for \$50,000 and above, the Assistant Deputy Director, Labor and Human Resource Management will set the delegation limit for each signature level.

**REPORT OF PENDING AND COMPLETED SETTLEMENTS TO HEADQUARTERS**  
(No. 63 February 2007)

**1950.2**

In order to accurately forecast future workers' compensation expenditures for budget purposes, pending settlements, predictions of likely settlements, and the settlement type need to be made. Based on the information from the Case Management Database, a report can be generated. To ensure that the report is as accurate as possible, Region RTW Coordinators shall take care to update data on the "settlement" tab in a timely and accurate manner. The Case Management Database report eliminates the needs for keeping a separate log of the needed information.

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