

WCB INSIDER

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Know Your WCB Rate Before Buying a Business



Purchasing a business may be one of the biggest decisions a person makes, but did you know that there are Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba responsibilities that come with it?

Before purchasing a business a potential owner should obtain any rate information from the seller so they have an understanding of what their rate will be once they take over the business.

The WCB will determine if the business is operating in a similar way based on a number of factors including (but not limited to) comparison of customer base, product or service offered; business name; workforce; and continuation of business operations between the close under the old ownership and opening under the new ownership.

If a business continues to operate in a similar way after being sold, the WCB will transfer the claims experience

and the existing rate from the old employer to the new employer to reflect the experience of the ongoing business. This may be a benefit if the seller has had good experience and earned rate reductions as a result. However, if their claim experience has been poor, the rate a buyer could adopt may reflect that.

A potential buyer is encouraged to ask about the WCB rate before finalizing the transaction and request the seller provide a Disposition of Business Enterprise Certificate. The Disposition of Business Enterprise Certificate is provided by the WCB to the seller to confirm the account with the WCB for the existing business has been fully paid and all requirements have been met. If you do not secure this, you may be responsible for any money owing on the seller's account.

Due to release of information guidelines, WCB cannot provide the Disposition of Business Enterprise Certificate to the buyer, it must be obtained by the current owner of the business.

"When you buy someone else's business, if they owe WCB any money you will inherit that cost," said Ted Liusz, Supervisor, Assessment Program Services with WCB.

"Get the rate of the business you want to buy and then compare it to the new business rate that's available on our website... Obtaining this information before the final purchase can prevent an unwelcome cost surprise when you register your new business with the WCB."

If you are new to business ownership in Manitoba, the WCB website can be a valuable resource of information. You will find publications including brochures, fact sheets, newsletters and guides to help you understand your rights and responsibilities within the compensation system. In addition, there are several online services which can benefit you.

More information can be found at www.wcb.mb.ca.





Eight organizations will present awards at The Safetys:

- Construction Safety Association of Manitoba
- Manitoba Farm Safety Program
- Made Safe - Manufacturing Safety for Manitoba
- Manitoba Heavy Construction Association WORKSAFELY
- Motor Vehicle Safety Association of Manitoba
- North American Occupational Health and Safety (NAOSH) Awards, presented by the Canadian Society of Safety Engineering
- SAFE Work Manitoba
- RPM Trucking Industry Safety

The Safetys:

Celebrating safe work and uniting Manitoba's business community in one premiere event

Workplace safety and health is clearly top-of-mind in Manitoba's business community. Even individuals without "safety" in their job title know that a safe workplace is more productive, profitable and engaged.

To recognize and support Manitoba's safety champions, SAFE Work Manitoba is co-hosting a brand-new gala event on Wednesday, September 27, called The Safetys. Eight organizations will present awards to businesses, organizations

and individuals who are committed to making their workplaces safer and healthier.

We expect to have as many as 300 guests from Manitoba's business community attend this premiere event, and we invite you to join in the celebration and secure your seat or table of 10 by visiting www.thesafetys.ca. Hurry! Tickets are going fast. The last day to register is Wednesday, September 20.

Coming Soon! Claim Transaction Statements and Updates to Claims Online

The WCB is introducing a new Claim Transaction Statement this November. The new statement will include all the same information currently available on the Firm Experience Statement, along with a number of new enhancements. Improvements include:

- See which transaction details will be used in the calculation of your future rates
- Payment totals broken out into more descriptive cost categories
- Transaction descriptions expanded to give you more information.

A detailed explanation on how to read the new Claim Transaction Statement will be included with the October statements which are mailed early November. The information will also be available on our website – wcb.mb.ca – in late-October.

The Claims Online application is also undergoing some improvements that will debut early November. These include:

- The Claim Download page features new columns for the industry name and to identify costs that will be used to set future premium rates in the list of monthly claim transactions
- Payment Totals for a worker claim have been expanded to eight cost categories instead of four to provide a clearer picture of claim costs
- The Claim Payment transactions that makeup each of the Payment Totals are displayed by cost category
- The transactions descriptions are expanded to give you more information
- A display of the current claim status

The Guide to Claims Online will be updated to reflect the improvements we are making to the application. Watch for the new Guide in late-October.

Return undeliverable copies to:
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