

# MANAGE APPLICATIONS FOR PERMANENT PARTIAL DISABILITY AWARDS

## WORKERS' COMPENSATION CLAIMS MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR OHIO MANUFACTURERS

Injured workers who suffer permanent damage to a body part as a result of a work-related injury or occupational disease can apply for a percentage of permanent partial disability award (by filing BWC form C-92). Similar to a pain and suffering award, every injured worker with an allowed claim is eligible to apply.

This sometimes surprises employers because the award application is filed after they consider the claim closed. However, injured workers may not file for a percentage of permanent partial disability award until 26 weeks have elapsed from the date of their last payment of BWC compensation or from the date of injury in medical-only claims.

BWC determines the initial percentage of permanent partial impairment award based on an independent medical examiner's recommendation. BWC requires a medical exam to determine the extent of impairment. After the medical exam, the BWC issues a tentative order.

Both employers and injured workers have 20 days from receiving the BWC's order to object to the percentage of disability awarded. The OMA recommends an appeal only if obtaining an independent medical exam is highly likely to financially benefit the employer.

If an objection is filed, the Industrial Commission of Ohio will hear the objection and make a ruling based on the medical evidence presented.

Injured workers can also request an increase in the percentage of permanent partial award based on changes in the claim, e.g. additional allowed conditions, additional medical documentation, etc.

Your OMA Account Manager will guide you through the process and your best options with regard to permanent partial disability awards.