

- MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT RATE.

Effective July 1, 2008, the compensation rate for mileage reimbursement in Iowa has been amended to the rate of 58.5¢ per mile.

- MAXIMUM & MINIMUM RATES.

2008 weekly minimum and maximum rates are as follows: Beginning July 1, 2008, the maximum weekly rate for TTD, healing period, permanent total disability and death benefits is \$1,366.00. The maximum weekly rate for permanent partial disability benefits is \$1,257.00.

The minimum weekly benefit amount for TTD or healing period is equal to either of the weekly benefit amount of a person whose gross weekly earnings are 35% of the statewide average weekly wage or the spendable weekly earnings of the employee, whichever is less. The minimum weekly benefit amount for PPD, PTD or death benefits is equal to the weekly benefit amount of a person whose gross weekly earnings are 35% of the statewide average weekly wage. The current (2008) statewide average weekly wage is \$682.95, and 35% of the statewide average weekly wage is \$239.00.

- GUIDES TO THE EVALUATION OF PERMANENT IMPAIRMENT, FIFTH EDITION.

By Administrative Rule 876-2.4, the Agency will continue to use the Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment, Fifth Edition. According to the Agency, the Sixth Edition touts a new paradigm for rating impairment and the impact of the level of impairment ratings (and perhaps corresponding level of disability) cannot yet be determined or appreciated. Until such studies can be completed, “The use of the Sixth Edition ratings are expressly discouraged”.

- WALK-IN SETTLEMENTS.

Beginning June 10, 2008, the Agency resumed its prior practice of doing walk-in settlements. Walk-ins may be done Tuesdays and Thursdays between 9:00 and 11:00 a.m. Walk-throughs can be done at other times by appointment.

- BURIAL EXPENSE. Iowa Code §85.28 has been amended and provides:

When death ensues from the injury, the employer shall pay the reasonable expenses of burial of such employee not to exceed 12 times the statewide average weekly wage paid employees as determined by the Department of Workforce Development under Section 96.19, Subsection 36 and in effect at the time of death, which shall be in addition to other compensation or any other benefit provided for in this chapter.