

## ● CONNECTICUT WORKERS' COMPENSATION ACT

*STATUTORY CITATION:* Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 31-275 – 31-355b

*GENERAL SUMMARY:* Under the Workers' Compensation Act, virtually all employers in Connecticut are obligated to pay certain medical costs of employees injured on the job or disabled by an occupational illness, and to compensate such workers or their dependents for the loss of earning capacity caused by the injury or illness, without regard to questions of negligence.

Employers may satisfy this obligation either by securing workers' compensation insurance which meets state-prescribed coverage and benefit standards, or by filing evidence with the state of financial ability to pay compensation directly. In exchange for compulsory protection of their workers against economic loss due to job-related personal injury or death, employers are not liable to any legal action for damages on account of such injury or death. Employers who fail, however, to comply through purchase of workers' compensation insurance or filing proof of self-insurance are subject to a fine, loss of the privilege of doing business in the state, or both such penalties.

*PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE:* Agricultural employers, including farm operators and farm labor contractors, who employ one or more workers are subject to the workers' compensation obligation to the same extent as their non-agricultural counterparts.

### *ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT*

**PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** — *Connecticut Workers' Compensation Commission, Hartford, Connecticut 06106 (860-493-1500)*. The chairman of the Commission exercises supervision over the entire workers' compensation system. Each of the district commissioners has jurisdiction over all workers' compensation claims and questions which arise in his or her respective workers' compensation district, and each has authority to summon and examine witnesses, subpoena records, and apply to the appropriate state court for enforcement of the law. The commissioners-at-large have equivalent power in districts where they are assigned.

A worker who is injured on the job should notify the employer, who must report the facts of the injury to the Chairman's office within one week. A written notice of a claim for compensation must be filed by the injured worker within one year from the date of the accident which caused the personal injury, or within 3 years from the onset of symptoms of the occupational disease. If death has resulted within 2 years from the date of an accident or onset of symptoms of occupational disease, the dependents or legal representative of the deceased employee may make a claim either within the 2-year period or within one year from the date of death, whichever is later.

**SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY** — *None*.