

● WORKERS' OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES ACT

STATUTORY CITATION: 820 Ill. Comp. Stat. §§ 310/1 – 310/27

GENERAL SUMMARY: The Workers' Occupational Diseases Act protects most workers in Illinois and their families against financial hardship caused by any disease arising out of and in the course of employment, or which has become aggravated and disabling as a result of on-the-job exposure. Employers subject to this law must obtain a prescribed insurance policy or provide other acceptable security separate and distinct from the insurance or security required under the Workers' Compensation Act, guaranteeing the payment of (1) cash income benefits, (2) medical, surgical, hospital and rehabilitation care, (3) burial costs, and (4) other required benefits to employees whose disability, impairment, disfigurement or death is caused by an occupational disease.

PROVISIONS APPLICABLE TO AGRICULTURE: Except for agricultural enterprises which used less than 400 worker-days of agricultural labor in all four calendar quarters of the preceding calendar year, farm operators and other agricultural establishments must obtain occupational disease compensation insurance or post equivalent security with the state on behalf of their workers.

ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT

PRIMARY ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312-814-6611)*. The Commission has authority to inspect employer payroll records and related documents to ascertain employers' liability to provide coverage under the Act and to assure that subject employers have complied with the Act's coverage requirements. Notice of disablement arising from occupational disease must be given to the employer as soon as practicable after onset of the disease or symptoms. The employer is responsible for assuring payment of benefits to eligible claimants and must report to the Commission all occupational disease disabilities and the amount of compensation benefits provided in each such case.

SECONDARY OR ASSOCIATED ENFORCEMENT AGENCY — *None*.