

**COAL MINE COMPENSATION RATING BUREAU
OF PENNSYLVANIA**

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COMPENSATION CIRCULAR CM-450

To: All Coal Mine Compensation Insurance Carriers

From: Charles A. Romberger, Executive Director



RE: **Revisions related to HB 1055 (Act 102 of 2012) (The Professional Employer Organization Act)**

Approval of Proposal CM-2-2012

Effective: January 1, 2013

The CMCRB has filed and the Insurance Department has approved revisions to Sections One, Three and Five of our Manual. These revisions bring our Manual into compliance with HB 1055 (Act 102 of 2012) and were prepared to be consistent with PCRFB Filing No. 250.

The revisions to our Manual are as follows:

- 1) Section One – Underwriting Rules: A new rule (Rule XIV) is added to the end of this section. See Exhibit 1.
- 2) Section Three – Endorsements: Four new endorsements are added to this section. These four endorsements are included as attachments:
 - WC 00 03 20 B – Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Extension Endorsement
 - WC 00 03 21 A – Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Exclusion Endorsement
 - WC 00 03 22 A – Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Client Exclusion Endorsement
 - WC 37 03 11 – Pennsylvania Multiple Coordinated Policy Endorsement
- 3) Section Five – Experience Rating Plan: A new rule (Section III – General Provisions under item 8. Change of Ownership, Control, Management or Operations, as subpart m.) is added to this section. See Exhibit 2.

Should you have any questions regarding this topic, please contact the Bureau.

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Attachments (as referenced above)

RULE XIV – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATIONS, PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER AGREEMENTS AND PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER SERVICES**A. DEFINITIONS – PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION (PEO)**

The following words and phrases when used in this rule shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. (These definitions are intended to be consistent with the definitions used in Act 102 of 2012.):

- Client – Any person who enters into a Professional Employer Agreement with a Professional Employer Organization.
- Co-employer – A Professional Employer Organization or Client.
- Co-employment Relationship – A relationship which is intended to be an ongoing relationship rather than temporary or project specific one, wherein the rights, duties and obligations of an employer which arise out of an employment relationship have been allocated between Co-employers pursuant to a Professional Employer Agreement and Act 102 of 2012.
- Covered Employee – An individual co-employed by a Professional Employer Organization and a Client who meets the following criteria:
 1. The individual has received written notice of co-employment with the Professional Employer Organization.
 2. The individual's Co-employment Relationship is pursuant to a Professional Employer Agreement subject to Act 102 of 2012.
- Department – The Department of Labor and Industry of the Commonwealth.
- Direct Hire Employee – An individual who is an employee of either the Client or the PEO within the meaning of the Act of June 2, 1915 (P.L. 736, No. 338) known as the Workers' Compensation Act, and who is not a Covered Employee.
- Master Policy Basis – An agreement under which a single workers' compensation policy issued to the Professional Employer Organization provides coverage for more than one Client and may provide coverage to the Professional Employer Organization with respect to its Direct Hire Employees. Two or more Clients that are insured under the same policy solely because they are under common ownership are considered a single Client for purposes of this definition.
- Multiple Coordinated Policy Basis – An agreement under which a separate workers' compensation policy is issued to the Professional Employer Organization on behalf of each Client or group of affiliated Clients with payment obligations and certain policy communications related to such workers' compensation policy coordinated through the Professional Employer Organization.

- Person – Any individual, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, association or any other form of legally recognized entity.
- Professional Employer Agreement – A contract by and between a Client and a Professional Employer Organization that provides:
 1. for the co-employment of Covered Employees;
 2. for the allocation of employer rights and obligations between the Client and the Professional Employer Organization with respect to the Covered Employees; and
 3. that the Professional Employer Organization and the Client assume the responsibilities required under Act 102 of 2012.
- Professional Employer Organization or PEO – Any person engaged in the business of providing Professional Employer Services.
- Professional Employer Services – The business of entering into Co-employment Relationships under Act 102 of 2012.

Under Professional Employer Agreements one business provides workers to another business entity under an agreement wherein all or substantially all of the employees of the Client are thereafter employed by the PEO and leased back to the original employer through a Professional Employer Agreement. The Professional Employer Agreement is long term in nature and is specifically not an arrangement to provide temporary help services to fill seasonal or temporary staffing shortages.

Act 102 of 2012 provides that both the PEO and the Client shall be an employer for Covered Employees assigned to the Client for purposes of Act 102 of 2012 and the Act of June 2, 1915 (P.L. 736, No. 338), known as the Workers' Compensation Act.

B. POLICY ISSUANCE

The responsibility to provide workers' compensation coverage for Covered Employees shall be specifically allocated in the Professional Employer Agreement to either the Client or the Professional Employer Organization.

1. When the responsibility to provide workers compensation coverage is allocated to the PEO, the PEO must provide coverage for all Covered Employees assigned to the Client.
2. When the responsibility to provide workers compensation coverage is allocated to the Client, the Client must provide coverage for all of its Covered Employees and Direct Hire Employees.

C. METHODS OF COVERAGE

PEOs and Clients may qualify to self-insure their respective obligations under the Workers' Compensation Act. In addition, there are three available options for Clients and PEOs that have entered into Professional Employer Agreements to insure their statutory obligations under the Workers' Compensation Act as Co-employers for their Covered Employees. These options are as described following:

1. Option One – The PEO provides workers' compensation insurance for Covered Employees of the Client by purchasing a Multiple Coordinated Policy (MCP) to insure such Covered Employees.

Under this option, a separate workers' compensation insurance policy is issued to the PEO on behalf of each Client. These policies insure the Client's Covered Employees without leaving uninsured gaps or creating overlaps in coverage with other insurance policies. Each policy written on a Multiple Coordinated Policy basis shall be issued to the PEO as the primary named insured and must identify both the PEO and the Client as insureds. The named insured must be of the form "PEO Name L/C/F Client Name". The Pennsylvania Multiple Coordinated Policy Endorsement (WC 37 03 11) must be added to each such policy, specifying which Covered Employees are insured by that policy.

- The insurer must assign risk classifications to each Client based on the totality of the Client's Pennsylvania operations regardless of whether workers engaged therein are provided under one or more Professional Employer Agreements or are Direct Hire Employees of the Client.
 - Policies written on an MCP Basis **by the same insurer** for a PEO as named insured may be combinable by agreement between the PEO and the insurer for purposes of premium discount, retrospective rating, schedule rating and other approved pricing programs. Such approved pricing programs may be based on the combined total standard premium and losses of all Multiple Coordinated Policies issued to the PEO as the primary named insured.
 - If the Client has any employees that are not Covered Employees of the PEO (whether Direct Hire Employees or Covered Employees obtained from another PEO), workers' compensation coverage for these other employees must be provided under a separate policy or policies. Attach the Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Client Exclusion Endorsement (WC 00 03 22 A) to exclude coverage for liability to employees leased from the PEO named in the endorsement.
2. Option Two – The Client provides workers' compensation insurance for its Covered Employees.

If the Client is responsible for providing workers' compensation insurance coverage for its Covered Employees, it may purchase a standard workers' compensation policy insuring its Covered Employees and its Direct Hire Employees, if any.

- When the Client secures coverage for its leased workers through a policy in its name, include the Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Extension Endorsement (WC 00 03 20 B), which specifies that the Client's policy will apply to injuries to Covered Employees obtained from the PEO named in the endorsement as though the PEO were an insured under the policy and that the insurer will not ask the PEO's insurer to share in a loss(es) covered by the endorsement.
 - The insurer must assign risk classifications to each Client based on the totality of the Client's Pennsylvania operations regardless of whether workers engaged therein are provided under one or more Professional Employer Agreements or are Direct Hire Employees of the Client.
3. Option Three – The PEO provides workers' compensation insurance coverage for its Clients' Covered Employees by purchasing a Master Policy to insure such Covered Employees.

Act 102 of 2012 requires the following conditions to be met in order for a PEO to insure Covered Employees of its Clients on a Master Policy Basis:

- a. The insurer underwriting the Master Policy must report separate experience data to the Bureau for each Client insured by the Master Policy in a format complying with all requirements of the approved Pennsylvania Statistical Plan.
- b. The insurer must assign risk classifications to each Client based on the totality of the Client's Pennsylvania operations regardless of whether workers engaged therein are provided under one or more Professional Employer Agreements or are Direct Hire Employees of the Client.
- c. If and when applicable, the insurer must assign separate experience modifications, Merit Rating adjustments, construction classification premium adjustments and/or Certified Safety Committee Program credits to the exposures of each Client covered by a Master Policy based on the Client's entire Pennsylvania operations.
 - 1) If the Client has any employees that are not Covered Employees of the PEO (whether Direct Hire Employees or Covered Employees obtained from another PEO), workers' compensation coverage for these other employees must be provided under a separate policy or policies. Attach the Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Client Exclusion Endorsement (WC 00 03 22 A) to exclude coverage for liability to employees leased from the PEO named in the endorsement.

Use of Master Policies is subject to prior approval by the Bureau of the issuing carrier's policy issuance and data reporting procedures as satisfactorily complying with the requirements of Act 102 of 2012. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the continuation until the next normal anniversary rating date of any Master Policy in force as of the effective date of Act 102 of 2012.

D. CLIENT POLICY OBLIGATIONS

A Client retains the statutory obligation to provide workers' compensation coverage for employees that are not Covered Employees pursuant to a Professional Employer Agreement.

In providing such coverage, the Client may either self-insure those exposures or the Client may purchase a standard workers' compensation policy through a licensed insurance company.

E. PEO POLICY OBLIGATIONS

A PEO retains the statutory obligation to provide workers' compensation coverage for its own Direct Hire Employees that are not Covered Employees pursuant to a Professional Employer Agreement.

In providing such coverage, the PEO may either self-insure those exposures or the PEO may purchase a standard workers' compensation policy through a licensed insurance company.

The Professional Employer Organization (PEO) Exclusion Endorsement (WC 00 03 21 A), which deletes coverage for workers leased to Clients named in the endorsement, must be attached to the PEO's own policy so that it insures only the PEO's Direct Hire Employees.

F. CANCELLATION PROVISIONS

1. Cancellation by the Professional Employer Organization (PEO)

- a.** If the PEO terminates the Professional Employer Agreement with the Client, termination of workers' compensation coverage for Covered Employees by the insurer shall be effective the sooner of:
 - Sixty (60) days after written notice of the intent to terminate workers' compensation coverage has been given by the PEO to the Client.
 - Fifteen (15) days after written notice of intent to terminate workers' compensation coverage by the insurer for non-payment of premium has been given by the PEO to the Client.
 - The date upon which workers' compensation coverage for covered employees is transferred to the Client's own workers' compensation policy or is otherwise replaced.
- b.** All requirements of the PEO in regard to the notification of Clients concerning workers' compensation coverage provided under a policy issued to the PEO for Covered Employees of the PEO continue to apply after written notice is given pursuant to the above.

- c. The Client shall pay for all workers' compensation coverage provided by the insurer, including reasonable administrative expenses, subsequent to the termination of the Professional Employer Agreement by the PEO.
- d. If worker's compensation coverage is provided through a workers' compensation policy issued to the PEO on behalf of the Client who has been given notice of termination pursuant to the above, the PEO is required to notify the affected insurer of the notification.

2. Cancellation by the Client

If the Professional Employer Agreement is terminated by the Client, the Client assumes the statutory obligation to provide workers' compensation for its employees as of the date termination is requested. The Client may secure coverage for its Covered Employees through another Professional Employer Agreement with a different PEO, through an approved self-insurance program or with a single policy covering all of the Covered Employees of the Client and the Client's Direct Hire Employees.

3. Notification Requirements

If the Professional Employer Agreement provides for the PEO to provide workers' compensation insurance for Covered Employees, the PEO shall notify the insurance carrier of record of any cancellation, non-renewal or termination of a Professional Employer Agreement under which the PEO assumed the obligation to provide workers' compensation insurance for Covered Employees within ten (10) days following the date the notification of cancellation or termination is provided to the Client. The insurance carrier of record shall notify the licensed rating organization of any cancellation, non-renewal or termination of workers' compensation coverage for Covered Employees by the PEO's insurer or any change in insurers for the Covered Employees within ten (10) days of the effective date of cancellation, termination or change of insurers.

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION (PEO) EXTENSION ENDORSEMENT

This endorsement applies only with respect to bodily injury to your leased workers in the state named in Item 2 of the Schedule when provided by a PEO named in Item 1 of the Schedule. This endorsement does not apply with respect to bodily injury to workers provided to you on a temporary basis.

Certain words and phrases in this endorsement are defined as follows:

Professional Employer Organization (PEO) is an entity or group of entities who are or were formally related by common management or ownership that provides workers to its client(s) through a PEO arrangement for a fee, pursuant to an agreement, written or otherwise. Without limitation, a PEO may also be referred to as a labor contractor, employee leasing company, lessor, or other similarly administered arrangement.

Client is an entity that obtains all or part of its workforce for a fee, pursuant to an agreement, written or otherwise, from another entity through a professional employer organization (PEO) arrangement or that employs the services of an entity through a PEO arrangement. Without limitation, a client may also be referred to as a lessee.

Temporary worker is a worker who is furnished to an entity for a finite period of time, including but not limited to one or more of the following work situations:

- Replace an absent worker who will return, such as during an authorized leave of absence, vacation, jury duty, or illness
- Fill a short-term or temporary professional skill shortage
- Staff a seasonal workload
- Staff a special assignment or project where the worker will be terminated or assigned to another temporary project upon completion
- Satisfy the requirements of the employer's overall employment program, such as a probationary period before new workers are granted permanent employee status

Part One (Workers Compensation Insurance) and Part Two (Employers Liability Insurance) of your policy will apply as though the PEO is an insured. If an entry is shown in Item 3 of the Schedule, the insurance afforded by this endorsement applies only to work you perform under the contract or at the project named in the Schedule.

Under Part One we will reimburse the PEO named in the Schedule for the benefits required by the workers compensation law if we are not permitted to pay the benefits directly to the persons entitled to them.

The insurance afforded by this endorsement is not intended to satisfy the PEO's duty to secure its obligations under the workers compensation law. We will not file evidence of this insurance on behalf of the labor contractor PEO with any governmental or regulatory agency.

We will not ask any other insurer of the PEO to share with us a loss covered by this endorsement.

Premium will be charged for your leased workers while provided by the PEO. You must obtain from PEO and furnish to us a complete payroll record of your leased workers provided by the PEO to satisfy your obligations under Part Five (Premium), C.2. You are jointly liable with the PEO for the contributions, premiums, forfeits, or interest attributable to the wages of the workers leased to you by the PEO.

The policy may be cancelled according to its terms or for violation of rules applicable to PEO arrangements, provided that the PEO has been provided a reasonable opportunity to cure the violation. If the policy is cancelled, we will send notice of such cancellation to the PEO and provide you with a notice regarding the status of your coverage.

Part Four (Your Duties If Injury Occurs) applies to you and the PEO. The PEO will recognize our right to defend under Parts One and Two and our right to inspect under Part Six (Conditions).

Schedule

- 1. PEO **Address**
- 2. State Where Work Performed
- 3. Contract or Project

This endorsement changes the policy to which it is attached and is effective on the date issued unless otherwise stated.

(The information below is required only when this endorsement is issued subsequent to preparation of the policy.)

Endorsement Effective
Insured

Policy No.

Endorsement No.
Premium

Insurance Company

Countersigned by _____

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION (PEO) EXCLUSION ENDORSEMENT

As used in this endorsement, a PEO arrangement is an arrangement under contract or agreement, written or otherwise, whereby one entity obtains or leases any or all of its workers from another entity for a fee or other compensation. The third party providing PEO services will be referred to as a "PEO." The entity receiving the services will be referred to as a "client."

This endorsement is used to exclude workers you lease to specified clients from your policy, which only covers your direct (non-leased) workers. Your policy, to which this endorsement is attached, does not provide coverage for workers you lease to any clients listed below or others added subsequent to policy issuance even if not endorsed on the policy. Any changes to such information must be reported to the carrier immediately.

Schedule

Client

Address

This endorsement changes the policy to which it is attached and is effective on the date issued unless otherwise stated.

(The information below is required only when this endorsement is issued subsequent to preparation of the policy.)

Endorsement Effective
Insured

Policy No.

Endorsement No.
Premium

Insurance Company

Countersigned by _____

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYER ORGANIZATION (PEO) CLIENT EXCLUSION ENDORSEMENT

As used in this endorsement, a PEO arrangement is any arrangement under contract or agreement, written or otherwise, whereby one entity obtains or leases any or all of its workers from another entity for a fee or other compensation. The third party providing PEO services will be referred to as a "PEO." The entity receiving the services will be referred to as a "client."

This endorsement is used to exclude leased workers from your policy, which only covers your direct (non-leased) workers. Your policy, to which this endorsement is attached, does not provide coverage for workers you lease from any PEO(s) listed below or others added subsequent to policy issuance even if not endorsed on the policy. Any changes to such information must be reported to the carrier immediately.

Schedule

PEO

Address

This endorsement changes the policy to which it is attached and is effective on the date issued unless otherwise stated.

(The information below is required only when this endorsement is issued subsequent to preparation of the policy.)

Endorsement Effective
Insured

Policy No.

Endorsement No.
Premium

Insurance Company

Countersigned by _____

PENNSYLVANIA MULTIPLE COORDINATED POLICY ENDORSEMENT

The policy to which this endorsement is attached provides coverage for the workers you lease from the professional employer organization (PEO) to the Client listed below on a multiple coordinated policy basis. The policy does not provide coverage for any Direct Hire Employees of the Client or Covered Employees obtained by the Client from another PEO.

Schedule

1. Client

2. Address

SECTION III – GENERAL PROVISIONS

8. CHANGE OF OWNERSHIP, CONTROL, MANAGEMENT OR OPERATIONS

m. *Employee Leasing.* If (1) an entity terminates its employment relationship with all, or substantially all, its employees, (2) all or substantially all such employees are thereafter employed by another entity which leases such employees to the original employer, and (3) workers compensation insurance for the leased employees is provided under a Master Policy issued to the second entity, the experience incurred prior to the termination of the original employment relationship shall be used in future ratings of the second entity. See Section One – Underwriting Rules, Rule XIV – Professional Employer Organizations, Professional Employer Agreements and Professional Employer Services for additional information.