

**Chapter 192-510 WAC
ASSESSING AND COLLECTING PREMIUMS**

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-010 Election, withdrawal, and cancellation of coverage. (1) Self-employed persons as defined in RCW 50A.04.105(1) and federally recognized tribes as defined in RCW 50A.04.110 may elect coverage under Title 50A RCW.

(2) Notice of election of coverage must be submitted to the department online or in another format approved by the department.

(3) Elective coverage begins on the first day of the calendar quarter immediately following the notice of election.

(4) A period of coverage is defined as:

(a) Three calendar years following the first day of elective coverage or any gap in coverage;

(b) Each subsequent calendar year.

(5) Any self-employed person or federally recognized tribe may file a notice of withdrawal within thirty calendar days after the end of each period of coverage.

(6) A notice of withdrawal from coverage must be submitted to the department online or in another format approved by the department.

(7) Any levy resulting from the department's cancellation of coverage is in addition to the due and unpaid premiums and interest for the remainder of the period of coverage.

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-020 Election of coverage for federally recognized tribes. (1) Federally recognized tribes electing coverage are employers as defined in RCW 50A.04.010 and are subject to all rights and responsibilities under Title 50A RCW.

(2) Employees of federally recognized tribes that elect coverage are employees as defined in RCW 50A.04.010 and are subject to all the rights and responsibilities under Title 50A RCW.

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-030 How will the department determine the wages earned and hours worked for self-employed persons electing coverage?

(1) The department will use the self-employed person's reported income and divide it by the state's minimum wage to presume the number of hours worked.

Example: For this example, the state's minimum wage is \$12.00 per hour. The self-employed person electing coverage reports \$10,000 of income in a quarter. The department will divide \$10,000 by \$12.00 and presume the self-employed person worked 833 hours in that quarter.

(2) The self-employed person may overcome the presumption of hours by providing sufficient documentation to the department including, but not limited to, personal logs or contracts.

(3) The department may require copies of tax returns, bank records, or any other documentation deemed necessary by the department to verify or determine the self-employed person's hours and wages.

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-040 How does an employer's size affect liability for premiums and eligibility for small business assistance grants? (1) To assess premiums and determine eligibility for small business assistance grants, the department must determine the size of each applicable employer. The department will only count the number of in-state employees as defined in RCW 50A.04.010(4) when calculating employer size.

(2) If the department determines that the employer's status has changed as it relates to premium liability, the department will notify the employer. This notification will include the following information:

(a) If the employer was determined to have fifty or more employees for the preceding calendar year, and the employer is then determined to have fewer than fifty employees for the subsequent calendar year, the employer will not be required to pay the employer portion of the premium for the next calendar year; or

(b) If the employer was determined to have fewer than fifty employees for the preceding calendar year, and the employer is then determined to have fifty or more employees for the subsequent calendar year, the employer will be required to pay the employer portion of the premium for the next calendar year.

Example: On September 30, 2018, a business is determined to have had 53 employees on average during the previous four completed quarters, which covers July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2018. The employer is liable for the employer portion of premiums for 2019. On September 30, 2019, the business is determined to have had 48 employees on average during the previous four completed quarters, which covers July 1, 2018, through June 30, 2019. The employer is no longer liable for the employer share of premiums for 2020.

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-050 How will the department assess the size of new employers? An employer who has not been in business in Washington long enough to report four calendar quarters by September 30th will have its size calculated after the second quarter of reporting is due by averaging the number of employees reported over the quarters for which reporting exists. Premium assessment based on this determination will begin on this reporting date. This size determination remains in effect until the following September 30th pursuant to RCW 50A.04.115 (8)(c).

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-060 When are employer premium payments due? (1) Premiums must be paid quarterly. Each payment must include the premiums owed on all wages subject to premiums during that calendar quarter. Payments are due to the department by the last day of the month following the end of the calendar quarter for which premiums are being paid.

(2) Payments made by mail are considered paid on the postmarked date. If the last day of the month falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or a legal holiday, the premium payment must be postmarked by the next business day.

(3) Premium payments are due within ten calendar days when a business is dissolved or the account is closed by the department. Premiums not paid timely are delinquent and subject to interest under RCW 50A.04.140.

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-070 What is "localization" and how does it affect conditional waivers? (1) An employee's work is subject to all reporting requirements and premiums when the work is localized in Washington. An employee's work is considered localized in Washington when:

(a) All of the employee's work is performed entirely within Washington; or

(b) Most of the employee's services are performed within Washington, but some of the work which is temporary or transitory in nature, or consists of isolated transactions is performed outside of Washington.

(2) Services that are not localized in Washington will be subject to reporting requirements and premiums when the services are not localized in any state, but some of the services are performed in Washington, and:

(a) The base of operations of the employee is in Washington, or if there is no base of operations, then the place from which such services is directed or controlled is in Washington; or

(b) The base of operations or place from which such service is directed or controlled is not in any state in which some part of the service is performed, but the individual's residence is in Washington.

Example: A storm hits Washington. An employer in Oregon dispatches an employee who typically lives and works in Oregon to help with repair work. The employee works temporarily in Washington for the employer for one week, and then returns to work in Oregon for the employer. The employment is localized within Oregon and is not subject to premium assessment.

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-510-080 What are the requirements to be eligible for a conditional premium waiver? (1) An employer and employee may be eli-

gible for a conditional waiver of premium payments by satisfying the requirements of RCW 50A.04.120.

(2) A conditional premium waiver is not required for work that is not subject to premiums under WAC 192-510-070 or fails to meet the definition of employment in RCW 50A.04.010 (7)(a).

(3) Any conditional premium waiver request must be submitted to the department online or in another format approved by the department.

(4) As a condition to granting the conditional premium waiver, the employer must file quarterly reports to verify that employees still qualify for the conditional premium waiver.

(5) Once an employee works eight hundred twenty hours in a qualifying period localized in Washington for an employer, the conditional premium waiver expires.

(6) The department may require the employer to submit additional documentation as necessary.

(7) If the employee exceeds eight hundred twenty hours or more in a qualifying period, the conditional waiver expires and the employer and employee will be responsible for their shares of all premiums that would have been paid during the qualifying period in which the employee exceeded eight hundred twenty hours had the waiver not been granted. Upon payment of the missed premiums, the employee will be credited for the hours worked and will be eligible for benefits under this chapter as if the premiums were originally paid.

Example: A storm hits Washington. An employer in Oregon hires a new employee who lives in Oregon to help with repair work. The employee only works in Washington for the employer for one week and is then laid off. The employer could request a conditional premium waiver for this employee.