

# Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

and other compensation schemes

**jobcentreplus**

Part of the Department for Work and Pensions



This leaflet is only a guide and does not cover every circumstance. We have done our best to make sure that the information in this leaflet is correct as of September 2011.

It is possible that some of the information is oversimplified, or may become inaccurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

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## **What is Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit?**

This is extra money you can get if you're ill or disabled from an accident or disease caused by work.

### **Accidents**

We use 'accident' to mean an incident (or series of incidents) at work which wasn't deliberate and which resulted in personal injury.

If you have an accident at work, you should tell your employer at once - even if the accident doesn't seem serious at the time. Most employers have an accident book. You should record the details of the accident in the book as soon as you can.

If you can't report the accident yourself, you should ask someone to do it for you.

You can apply at any time for a decision from us (see page 8 for contact details) on whether your accident was an industrial accident. Applying for a decision is not a claim for benefit but may help you decide to claim benefit in the future because of your accident.

## Diseases

More than 70 diseases are covered. Some of the most common are:

- asthma
- chronic bronchitis and emphysema
- deafness
- pneumoconiosis (lung disease from breathing in mineral dust)<sup>1</sup>, and
- prescribed disease A11 (formerly known as vibration white finger).

## Asbestos-related diseases

These diseases are covered:

- pneumoconiosis (asbestosis)<sup>1</sup>
- diffuse mesothelioma<sup>2</sup>
- primary carcinoma of the lung with asbestosis<sup>2</sup>
- primary carcinoma of the lung without asbestosis but where there has been extensive occupational exposure to asbestos in specified occupations<sup>2</sup>
- unilateral or bilateral diffuse pleural thickening.

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If you're diagnosed with the disease **1**, you can get benefit if your disablement is assessed at 1% or more.

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If you are diagnosed with one of the diseases **2**, you'll get the benefit at the maximum rate from the start of your claim.

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## **Can I get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit?**

You must have got the disease as a result of doing a certain type of work on or after 5 July 1948 when employed in Great Britain.

We may need you to have a medical check. This will help us decide how disabled you are and how long your disability will last.

We won't pay Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit if you did the work that made you ill when you were self-employed, or before 5 July 1948.

## Other help available

### Reduced Earnings Allowance

You may get Reduced Earnings Allowance if:

- you can't do your usual job or other work with similar pay because of an accident or disease caused by work, and
- you have a disability which began before 1 October 1990.

### Retirement Allowance

If your Reduced Earnings Allowance is £2 or more a week when you reach State Pension age and you're not in regular employment, we'll replace it with another benefit called Retirement Allowance.

### Constant Attendance Allowance

If you get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit at the full rate and you need daily care and attention, you may get Constant Attendance Allowance.

### Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance

If you get one of the two higher rates of Constant Attendance Allowance and you need permanent or constant care and attention, you may also get Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance.

## How do I claim?

### When and how do I claim?

If you think you may get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit, claim as soon as you can.

If you delay, you may lose some benefit.

Claim straight away if you have an illness caused by your work.

We deal with Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit at five benefit delivery centres.

Contact the centre covering the area where you live for more information.

East and West Midlands

Phone: 0845 608 8779

North East

Phone: 0845 600 1587

Scotland, North West, East of England,  
London and the South East

Phone: 0845 603 1358

Yorkshire and the Humber, the South West  
and Wales

Phone: 0845 758 5433

A single textphone number is available  
wherever you live: 0845 608 8551



### **Work done before 1948**

If your disease was caused by work before 5 July 1948, get in touch with:

Pneumoconiosis and Workmen's  
Compensation Section

Barrow-in-Furness

Phone: 0800 279 2322

### **Work done as a trainee**

If you were a trainee doing work-based training when you became ill, get in touch with:

Analogous Industrial Injuries Scheme  
Castleford

Phone: 0845 758 5433

### **How are claims decided?**

We may contact your employer, if possible, to check the jobs you've done.

While we're checking the jobs you've done, we may ask you to go for a medical check. But if we decide that the jobs you've done don't meet the rules, you won't get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

If you have a medical check, a doctor will give an opinion on whether you have the disease and the level of your disability.

### **How much can I get?**

The amount you get depends on how bad your disability is.

We can pay it after 15 weeks (90 days not counting Sundays) from the first day you are disabled by the disease or accident.

### **How will I be paid?**

We pay benefits straight into your account. This is the best way to receive your benefit because you can choose how and when to take your money out of your account. Your account can be with a bank, building society or the Post Office.

### Will Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit affect my other benefits?

You can get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit as well as:

- contribution-based Employment and Support Allowance
- Incapacity Benefit
- contribution-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or
- State Pension.

But Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit can affect you or your partner's:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Pension Credit
- Housing Benefit
- Council Tax Benefit
- Working Tax Credit
- Child Tax Credit, or
- War Pension.

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#### Partner

We will treat you as a couple if you live with your husband, wife or civil partner, or if you live with someone as if they were your husband, wife or civil partner. We call this other person your partner.

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## Compensation schemes

### **Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers Compensation) Act 1979 Scheme**

We may pay you a lump sum if you have one of the diseases listed below and you can't or haven't taken a civil legal action because your former employer has stopped trading. The diseases covered by the scheme are:

- pneumoconiosis
- byssinosis
- diffuse mesothelioma
- bilateral diffuse pleural thickening, and
- primary carcinoma of the lung when accompanied by asbestosis or bilateral diffuse pleural thickening.

### The 2008 Diffuse Mesothelioma Scheme

We may pay you a lump sum if you have diffuse mesothelioma and can't get a payment under the 1979 scheme.

This scheme covers:

- self-employed people, and
- people who did not get the disease from their employment (for example, if you washed asbestos-contaminated clothing, or if you lived near a factory where asbestos was used).

You can't get a payment if you were not resident in the UK when the exposure to asbestos happened.

If you can't get a payment under the 1979 scheme for pneumoconiosis, we'll automatically consider you under the 2008 scheme. You can't get a payment under both schemes.

For more about both schemes, contact:

**The PWC Team**

Phone: **0800 279 2322**

## Call charges

Charges were correct as of the date on the back of this leaflet.

Calls to **0800** numbers are free from BT land lines but you may have to pay if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls to **0845** numbers from BT land lines should cost no more than 8p a minute with a 13p call set-up charge. You may have to pay more if you use another phone company, a mobile phone, or if you are calling from abroad.

Calls from mobile phones can cost up to 40p per minute, so check the cost of calls with your service provider.

## Textphones

Our textphone numbers are for people who can't speak or hear clearly. If you don't have a textphone, you could check if your local library or citizens advice bureau has one. Textphones don't receive text messages from mobile phones.



Directgov provides information from UK government departments on all sorts of topics. To find out about which benefits you may be entitled to, visit

[www.direct.gov.uk/benefitsadviser](http://www.direct.gov.uk/benefitsadviser)

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