

OWCP Form 1032



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An injured letter carrier receiving wage loss compensation from the Office of Workers' Compensation Programs (OWCP) is required to provide medical and financial information on a regular basis to prove entitlement to benefits. Injured workers who file CA-7s for wage loss compensation must declare any income received as wages.

Section 3 of the CA-7 states:

You must report **any and all** earning from employment (**outside** your federal job); include any employment for which you receive a salary, wages, income, sales commissions, or payment of **any** kind during the period(s) claimed in Section 2. Include self-employment, odd jobs, involvement in business enterprises, as well as service in the military. Fraudulently concealing employment or failing to report income may result in forfeiture of compensation benefits and/or criminal prosecution. **Have you worked outside your federal job for the period(s) claimed in section 2?**

This language has been broadly interpreted to include income from garage sales, real estate rentals, eBay sales, and any form of reimbursement for volunteer work, including pastoral duties. To protect yourself from any allegations of fraud and/or criminal prosecution, injured workers should report every outside source of income to OWCP at the time it is received.

Income should be reported by uploading a letter explaining the source of the income to OWCP claims via ECOMP. Once the letter is uploaded, make a follow-up phone call to your claims examiner to verify that he or she has reviewed it.

Some outside income is allowed if the injured worker was earning the income concurrently with their letter carrier wages. For example, if you suffered an injury while working as a letter carrier and also had a part-time job at the ticket window at a local sports venue, you would be entitled to continue receiving that income as long as it complies with your medical restrictions and you report it to OWCP.

Injured workers suffering long-term injuries may be placed on OWCP's periodic rolls. An injured worker placed on the periodic rolls no longer has to file CA-7s, and OWCP will pay those workers every four weeks.

Being placed on the periodic rolls does not absolve the injured worker from reporting any income in line with the requirements of Section 3 of the CA-7.

On a yearly basis, OWCP will send Form CA-1032 to injured workers who have been placed on the periodic rolls. It is vitally important that Form CA-1032 be re-

turned to OWCP within 30 days from the date on the letter, not from the date you received the letter in the mail.

The CA-1032 has sections requesting information regarding employment income, volunteer work, dependents, other federal benefit payments including retirement, Social Security and VA benefits, and third-party settlements. The CA-1032 also asks for information regarding fraud offenses related to OWCP claims and periods of incarceration.

Each of the questions on the CA-1032 needs to be answered completely. When it comes to Social Security benefits, be sure to list any benefits, including those for disability or retirement. Writing "N/A" as an answer to any question is unacceptable and could lead to suspension of benefits.

If the CA-1032 is not received within the 30 days allotted, compensation benefits may be suspended until the report is received. OWCP procedures for suspended benefits were recently changed in a way that may make it harder for injured workers to get benefits reinstated.

When form CA-1032 has not been submitted within 30 days, OWCP claims examiners should first examine the file to determine whether extenuating circumstances exist. (For example, the claimant is hospitalized or has just moved and had no time to notify the office.) The claims examiner should also verify whether the form was sent to the correct address.

When the CA-1032 is not received within 30 days, the claims examiner will review the file. If the claims examiner believes that the medical evidence is not sufficient to support continued entitlement of compensation, the claims examiner can delay suspending benefits and proceed with medical development.

If the claim has been suspended for failure to complete the CA-1032, and there is no current medical evidence in the file, the claims examiner can propose to terminate benefits if the injury-related disability has ceased.

To avoid delays in compensation, injured workers need to schedule routine doctor's evaluations at least every three months and respond to OWCP letters immediately. The doctor should complete a CA-17, Duty Status Report at every appointment. Copies of the CA-17 should be sent to both OWCP and the USPS.

Injured workers can avoid problems by checking their ECOMP dashboard daily. The "Letters" tab displays four additional tabs: "Overdue Response," "Response Required," "Completed Response" and "Informational Letters." CA-1032 letters will be in the "Response Required" tab. You can download the form there, fill it out and return the form as a picture or a PDF.