

**SUMMARY OF 2013 AMENDMENTS TO
THE RULES OF THE STATE BOARD OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION**

The 2013 Rules, effective July 1, 2013, contain organizational, editorial, and substantive changes. This summary of the 2013 amendments to the Rules is intended as a convenient reference and does not represent an exhaustive description of all rules changes. For detailed information regarding changes to a particular rule, please refer to the published version of the rule.

Parties at Interest

Rules 206(c), Rule 15(n) and Rule 15(o) were amended to address claims by parties at interest.

A phrase was added to Rule 206(c) to specifically provide that in addition to receiving notice of any pending hearing, a party at interest will be permitted to present evidence of its claimed interest at the hearing.

Rule 15(n) states the Board's policy of not approving settlements until WC-206/WC-244 party at interest claims are resolved.

Rule 15(o) was added to require the submission to the Board of a statement specifying the party responsible for outstanding medical expenses in the context of no liability stipulated settlements.

Rule 15 Administrative Changes

Rule 15(a)(3) was amended to eliminate the mandatory filing of a WC-1 in every case involving a stipulated settlement, and to provide the Board with discretion to require the filing of the WC-1 when needed.

Rule 15(a)(8) was amended to allow the filing of settlement supporting documents that cause a stipulated settlement to exceed 25 pages without obtaining approval of the Board. The 25 page limitation still applies to the stipulated settlement document itself, but supplemental documents filed in support of the stipulated settlement are not subject to the 25 page limitation.

Rule 104 unilateral conversion of temporary total disability benefits to temporary partial disability benefits

Effective January 1, 2014, Rule 104 is being amended to require simultaneous filing of the Form 104 with the Board at the time it is served on the employee and the employee's attorney.

Changes to Rule 203 and Rule 240 that track 2013 legislative changes

Rule 203—Mileage expenses incurred by the employee.

Rule 203 was amended to reflect the legislative change to O.C.G.A. § 34-9-203 that requires mileage expenses incurred by the employee to be paid within 15 days. The rule provides that requests for reimbursement of mileage expenses incurred by the employee shall be paid within 15 days of an itemized written request.

Rule 240—Unilateral suspension of benefits for failure to accept and attempt a suitable job.

Rule 240 was amended to reflect the legislative change to O.C.G.A. § 34-9-240 that provides for unilateral suspension of the employee's disability benefits for failure of the employee to attempt a suitable job for eight cumulative hours or one scheduled workday, whichever is greater.