

Guide to Submitting Your WC-R1CATEE

Form WC-R1CATEE went into effect in July of 2002; this is a dedicated form used solely by employees and their attorneys to request catastrophic designation.

A completed Form **WC-R1CATEE** should now be submitted online. If you need assistance in online submission, please contact Liesa Gholson, Administrative Law Judge, Georgia State Board of Workers' Compensation, at gholsonl@sbwc.ga.gov. Every field on the WC-R1CATEE form itself **must** be complete. When providing the injured employee's significant work history [last 15 years], it is helpful if you include the dates of each job along with the physical duties. When naming a supplier, he/she *must* be Board registered as a catastrophic rehabilitation supplier. A list of all suppliers may be accessed under "Publications" on the Board's web site: www.sbwc.georgia.gov. Those with the catastrophic designation will have "*Catastrophic*" under their name [as opposed to "*Regular*"]. It is also highly recommended that you include a letter that outlines your reasoning of why the work-related injuries qualify for catastrophic designation. Accurately incorporate a synopsis of the employee's treatment history, including surgeries, etc. There is absolutely **no need** to include the entire years of treatment records, handwritten physical therapy notes, nurses' notes, anesthesia records, etc.

As of July 1, 2004, Rule 200.1(g)(3) was modified to allow either party to file a WC-14 to have the catastrophic designation issue determined by an ALJ as opposed to the Rehabilitation Division. However, this Rule *requires* that a WC-R1CATEE be filed. If you want the issue decided by an ALJ, you *must* file the 2 page WC-R1CATEE form. On the form, in the employment history section just type: WC-14 FILED.

Should you wish for the Rehabilitation Division to process the request:

If filing is based on O.C.G.A. § 34-9-200.1(g)(1)-(5) (Specific Medical Diagnoses)

You must attach current medical diagnoses and records that clearly reflect the injury(ies) meet the definition of catastrophic for which you are applying:

- For head injuries, a copy of neuropsychological evaluation, if one has been completed.
- For multiple digit amputations, diagrams showing sites of amputations
Multiple finger and/or toe amputations may equate to amputation, if the employee has lost the effective use of his/her hand or foot. Photographs and/or diagrams may be helpful to identify actual losses.
- For burn injuries, percentage of body burned and what type of burns (1st, 2nd, 3rd); whether or not five per cent or more of face or hands incurred 3rd degree burns
- For industrial blindness, documentation of employee's current vision

If filing is based on O.C.G.A. §34-9-200.1 (g) (6) (Employee is unable to work due to injury and may be receiving SSDI):

You must attach the following:

- Current medical diagnoses (within the past year and preferably the last six months)
- Current (within the past year and preferably the last six months) opinion from the employee's authorized treating physician(s) regarding whether or not the employee is released to work and if so, with what *restrictions*. For example, how many hours can the employee sit, stand, and walk? How many pounds can s/he lift/carry? Are there any limitations regarding hand use (fine and gross manipulation), bending, driving, foot controls, vision restrictions, etc.? Are there *specific restrictions which reduce the person to less than a full range of sedentary work?*
- Work history for the past 15 years, including physical requirement of each job
In (g)(6) cases the focus is on the employee's ability to return to suitable employment. Suitable employment necessarily is 8 hours per day. Consequently, the first analysis is whether or not the employee is released to return to work. If yes, the first question posed by the Workers' Compensation Act is whether the employee can return to his/her prior work. If not, past work history combined with education level and age are analyzed to determine if the employee has transferable skills that will enable him/her to perform "any work available in substantial numbers within the national economy for which such employee is otherwise qualified."
- Education level
Is the person actually illiterate? Submit documentation that the employee attended specific special education classes in school, if applicable. Does the employee have a tested IQ below 70? If the employee IS receiving Social Security disability (SSDI) benefits or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits:

If the employee IS receiving disability benefits from the Social Security Administration ("SSA"), the employee may also attach:

- A copy of the SSA's Decision which includes its findings and award of Social Security Disability (SSDI) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits, **OR**
- If a judicial decision or rationale was not issued, documentation from the Social Security Administration listing the diagnoses based on which the employee was found to be disabled, as well as notification that he was approved for SSDI or SSI, **OR**
- If such documentation is unavailable, an affidavit detailing the disability (ies) on which the Social Security award was based, and information about whether or not each of the disabling conditions was related to the employee's work injury

However, unless the Workers' Compensation injury and its residual were the sole factor of the basis of the SSA Award, the employee's receipt of disability benefits from the SSA has a very limited impact on the designation of catastrophic under the Workers' Compensation Act.

Please feel free to call anyone in the Managed Care and Rehabilitation Division for guidance. You can find a list of by using this link to our website. [Managed Care & Rehabilitation Division Personnel Telephone Numbers & E-Mail Addresses](#)