

Section Title: Benefits Administration - Occupational Disease
Subject: Laryngeal Cancer
Effective Date: June 14, 1978

A. POLICY

Claims for laryngeal cancer will generally be accepted when the worker was occupationally exposed to asbestos fibre or nickel aerosol, and when it can reasonably be presumed that the cancer arose out of and in the course of employment.

Claims for laryngeal cancer will generally be accepted under the following circumstances:

- (a) When the worker is occupationally exposed to any industrial process that produces nickel in aerosol dispersion for a minimum of 15 years of cumulative exposure, commencing a minimum of 20 years prior to the date the claim is filed.

This may include the following industries:

- Roasting
- Smelting
- Refining
- Welding
- Electroplating

- (b) When the worker is involved in any occupation in which there is a clear and adequate history of occupational exposure to asbestos dust, and while such exposure cannot be quantitatively described, it should be of continuous repetitive nature and should represent or be a manifestation of the major component of the occupational activity. Any such exposure should be for a minimum of 20 years prior to the date the claim is filed.

- (c) When the worker is occupationally exposed to both nickel for a cumulative minimum of 7.5 years and asbestos for a cumulative minimum of 5 years, with the initial exposure commencing a minimum of 15 years prior to the date the claim is filed.

Claims that do not meet the above guidelines will be individually judged on their own merits having regard to the intensity of exposure and other factors peculiar to the individual case. The benefit of reasonable doubt applies, in context with a balance of probabilities.

B. REFERENCES

The Workers Compensation Act, sections 1(1), 1(12), 4(1), 4(4), 60(2) and 105
WCB Policy 44.20.65, *Gastro-Intestinal Cancer*

History:

1. Policy approved by the Board of Directors on June 14, 1978, effective immediately.
2. Minor formatting and grammatical changes were made to the policy and the history section was added June 27, 2012.