



Minnesota has a best-in-class system

The *2009 State report cards for workers' comp* gives Minnesota an A+ grade based on 2006 data and ranks it in the top tier of states based on its performance from 2000 to 2006. The report is produced by the Work Loss Data Institute, a California-based independent database development company that is focused on workplace health and productivity issues.

The ratings used in the report are based on OSHA log data, from which five outcome measures are produced: incidence rates, proportion of cases missing work, median disability duration, distribution of lost work time and outcomes for low back strain cases. Data is available for 43 states.

Only Iowa performed better than Minnesota in 2006, by a narrow margin. The states' A+ grades were based on the average of their scores on the five measures. The Tier 1 ranking for the 2000 to 2006 performance means Minnesota had an average grade of B+ or better during those years and a continuing upward trend. Only four other states – Iowa, Kansas, Utah and Virginia – were also ranked in Tier 1. The complete news release is online at www.worklossdata.com/PR_SRC2009.htm.

Spotlight on forms filing

Annual claim for reimbursement forms, Interim Status Report form

By Karen Kask-Meinke, Workers' Compensation Program Supervisor, Claims Services and Investigations



When filing the Annual Claim for Reimbursement from the Second Injury Fund form (www.dli.mn.gov/WC/PDF/ar04.pdf) remember to also complete all applicable sections of the Interim Status Report form (www.dli.mn.gov/WC/PDF/is03.pdf) and attach it to the annual claim form, with other supporting documentation. The Interim Status Report form provides payment detail not requested on the second injury claim form, and that data is collected by the department's Safety and Workers' Compensation Division.

When filing the Annual Claim for Reimbursement of Supplementary Benefits form (www.dli.mn.gov/WC/PDF/ac03.pdf) it is not necessary to attach the Interim Status Report form, as long as the only benefits being paid to the claimant are temporary total disability (TTD), permanent total disability (PTD) and supplementary benefits. As always, supporting documentation of the claimant's eligibility for ongoing benefits must be provided. If other benefits are being paid to the claimant, such as TPD or PPD benefits, the Interim Status Report form must be completed and filed with the department's Safety and Workers' Compensation Division.