

# The Interjurisdictional Agreement (IJA)

## What is the Interjurisdictional Agreement?

Canadian provincial and territorial Workers' Compensation Boards have signed an agreement to act together in assisting employees and employers who perform work in more than one jurisdiction.

The IJA means:

- employers should not pay assessments twice for the same payroll
- interjurisdictional trucking and transport firms (including courier, bus and motor coach companies) may not have to pay assessments in every province or territory their workers travel in or through
- workers may receive services in their own province or territory, even if they were injured and filed a claim elsewhere



## How does the IJA work?

If you do business in more than one province or territory, you should contact a representative of the Workers' Compensation Board in each jurisdiction. They will tell you if your employees are covered, and if you have to register and pay assessments. (The IJA does not change the fact that each province and territory has its own rules about who is covered and the limits of coverage. Whether you or your workers have immunity from suit in another jurisdiction depends on the law in the jurisdiction where the injury occurred.)



You only have to pay assessments in a province or territory for work that is performed in that place. If you have paid assessments in your home province or territory and are required to pay in another province or territory for the same work, you may be eligible for a refund from your home province or territory.

### Is there an alternative for the trucking and transport industry?



Yes. Instead of paying assessments to all Canadian jurisdictions your workers travel in or through, you can choose to apply for participation in the Alternative Assessment Procedure. The AAP allows you to pay assessments only to the Workers' Compensation Boards in jurisdictions where you have workers residing. (An application should be made for each jurisdiction your workers reside in.) These boards, in turn, will notify other jurisdictions your workers travel through of your AAP status. This method of paying assessments does not change the worker's right to make a claim.

### How are IJA claims handled?

Each province and territory has agreed to assist each other in managing claims. If you are injured and claim benefits in one place, and later move to another province or territory, the Workers' Compensation Board in that place may be asked to arrange your treatment, rehabilitation, and return to work. Benefits will still come from the board where you first made your claim.

If your injury can be claimed in more than one Canadian jurisdiction (depending, for instance, on where you reside, where the injury occurred, where you usually work, and so on), you may be required to complete an Election Form. This protocol lets you choose to claim benefits in one jurisdiction, while giving up the right to claim in any other jurisdiction. Before deciding where to claim benefits, you should contact the jurisdictions involved, to see if you are covered and to compare the benefits you are eligible for.

When you complete the Election Form, a copy will be provided to the other jurisdictions where you may have been entitled to claim, and retained for future reference to ensure that duplicate claims are not filed.

