



NEWS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Requirements for Reporting Occupational Injuries and Illnesses go into Effect July 1, 2003

June 23, 2003, Austin, Texas — Beginning on July 1, 2003, all employers that are required to report workplace injuries and illnesses to the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission (TWCC) must do so using North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) codes instead of Standard Industrial Classification (SIC) codes.

Since August 2000, the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has been issuing NAICS codes to all Texas employers. The NAICS codes replace the SIC codes, which have been used to classify businesses by industry for 60 years. The newer NAICS system recognizes hundreds of new businesses in our economy and reorganizes the classification of businesses based on production processes. Workplace injury and illness data is commonly analyzed by industry code to help determine hazardous occupations and focus resources on accident prevention.

In Texas, most employers are required by law to report occupational injuries, illnesses, and fatalities to TWCC. Injuries and illnesses that occur at businesses that carry workers' compensation insurance (subscribers) are reported electronically to TWCC on the TWCC Form 1 (Employers First Report of Injury or Illness), typically by the workers' compensation insurance carriers. Employers that do not carry workers' compensation insurance (non-subscribers) and have five or more employees are required to report injury and illness information on the TWCC Form 7 (Non-Covered Employer's Report of Occupational Injury or Illness) [Texas Labor Code 411.001 (2), 411.032 and Title 28 of the Texas Administrative Code, Rule 160.2].

Injuries that must be reported include:

- any on-the-job injury that results in the employee's absence from work for more than one day; and
- occupational diseases of which the employer has knowledge.

For additional information about reporting workplace injuries and illnesses, contact TWCC at 512-804-4695. The TWCC Forms 1 and 7 can be accessed online at www.twcc.state.tx.us, under the "Laws, Rules & Forms" section. For inquiries regarding the assignment of NAICS codes, contact the Texas Workforce Commission at 512-491-4865.

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