



Workplace Safety &
Insurance Board

Commission de la sécurité
professionnelle et de l'assurance
contre les accidents du travail

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February 8, 2005

Mr. Geoff Nash
Business Representative
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Local 353
1377 Lawrence Ave E
TORONTO ON M3A 3P8

Dear Mr. Nash:

Thank you for your letter dated January 29, 2005. You ask for clarification with respect to the application of the Psychotraumatic Disability policy. Noting the reference in your letter, I should confirm that the current number of this policy is 15-04-02 and the old number is 03-03-03.

You indicate that there seems to be a view, operationally, that the above noted policy only applies if the accident is traumatic in nature. And you correctly note that this concept is a requirement of the Traumatic Mental Stress policy.

The Psychotraumatic Disability policy is quite clear in addressing entitlement. Psychotraumatic Disability could result from:

- Organic brain injury
- Indirect result of a physical injury, or
- Extended disablement.

Rather than repeating the full details of the policy, there is simply no requirement that the injury must be traumatic before entitlement can be considered. Actually the only reference in the entitlement part of the policy to "traumatic" relates to "traumatic head injury". However this is but one example as opposed to a general requirement.

I suppose the title of the policy could be misleading although I am concerned that entitlement could be denied based on the title rather than the body of the policy. Regardless, I can confirm that this policy does not require an accident be traumatic in order to consider entitlement.

Thank you for writing to me about this issue, I hope my response will be of assistance.

Yours sincerely,

John H. Martin
Manager, Policy Development
Benefits Policy Branch