



## YOUR WORKSAFE POLICY GUIDE North Carolina

We look forward to serving you and thank you for your business. If you have any questions about your WorkSafe workers' compensation policy – or any other matter related to Builders Mutual – please contact your Agent or our Company.

Enclosed is valuable information related to your policy. Please read carefully and retain with your policy.

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**Also enclosed in this policy jacket:**

- Your Policy
- Post Injury Drug/Alcohol Policy (post for employees)
- BMIC Drug Testing Acknowledgement
- Estimated Billing (invoice for any premium due)

## **PREMIUM ACCOUNTING – 800-809-4860**

### **Payment Plans**

Builders Mutual offers the following payment plans; policyholders may change plans at renewal only:

#### **Monthly Reporting**

Policyholders who are on the monthly self-reporting payment plan will receive a Monthly Self-Reporting Worksheet. This worksheet provides an opportunity for maximum control of cash flow, and projects a more realistic final audit as a result of **accurate** monthly reporting. All policyholders must submit the Monthly Self-Reporting Worksheet together with the appropriate premium regardless of account size. Instructions to calculate premium are also included on each Worksheet.

To complete the Worksheet(s), enter GROSS payroll by classification(s) for the period during the month coverage was in effect and compute monthly premium following the instructions on the report(s). The completed report(s) should be returned with the appropriate premium payment to Builders Mutual no later than the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month. Checks should be made payable to Builders Mutual.

For complete directions to aid in filling out your Monthly Self-Reporting Worksheet, visit [www.buildersmutual.com](http://www.buildersmutual.com) and click on Workers' Comp Worksheet Instructions under Hot Topics.

A 15% deposit or irrevocable letter of credit is required for this plan (see "Deposit" below).

#### **Monthly Bill 10-Pay**

Policyholders on the monthly bill plan will receive 10 bills during the policy year, beginning in the first month of the policy term. A 15% deposit or irrevocable letter of credit is required for this plan (see "Deposit" below).

#### **Deposit**

BMIC requires a 15% non-working deposit\* on Monthly Reporting and Monthly Bill 10-Pay plans. This deposit is adjusted annually at renewal and is retained only to apply toward premium in the event of termination. Upon termination of coverage, the insured's account will be audited with the appropriate monies being applied toward outstanding premium due and/or returned to the policyholder within 30 days from date of audit statement.

Policyholders who remain as customers for five years will no longer require a deposit. Any money currently posted to the account as *deposit* will be applied to *premium*, effective on the first month of the sixth policy year.

\*Irrevocable Letters of Credit must be in the amount of 25% of estimated annual premium.

#### **Annual**

Policies that are less than \$1,000 in annual premium are required to be on the annual pay plan. In addition, policyholders who wish to pay one annual premium may select this plan. No deposit is required.

#### **Quarterly**

Policyholders on the quarterly pay plan will be billed in 4 equal installments per policy year, on a quarterly basis. No deposit is required.

#### **Returned Checks**

All checks that are returned for insufficient funds or any other reasons will subject the policyholder to a \$25.00 charge per check.

### **Renewals**

The policy will renew on the renewal date listed on the declaration page. However, policies that incur losses are subject to review by BMIC's Underwriting department for continued acceptability.

### **Cancellation**

Cancellation of insurance coverage may result because of the following:

- Non-Payment of premium, including NSF returned check, failure to submit monthly self-audit worksheets, failure to submit to or pay year-end audit, failure to pay deposit balance
- Conviction of named insured of a crime which affects hazard that is insured against
- Failure to meet Risk Management or Underwriting requirements and standards
- Change in risk which increases hazard
- Determination that continuation would jeopardize solvency or place insurer in violation of insurance laws
- Violation of policy terms or conditions
- Commissioner's approval
- Material misrepresentation in obtaining the policy, pursuing a claim, or renewing the policy
- Substantial breaches of contractual duties, conditions, or warranties
- Fraudulent acts by the insured or the insured's representatives that materially affect the nature of the risk
- If the insurer loses its reinsurance for the risk

Please note that, should a policyholder request the cancellation of its workers' compensation policy prior to its renewal date, there will be a short rate penalty assessed according to the National Council on Compensation Insurance (NCCI) table. Please contact your agent for more details.

### **Termination - Policyholder's Request**

Requests for termination of coverage must be received in writing by BMIC and must include:

- Signature of an Owner or Officer
- Reason for Termination

### **Termination - Duplicate Coverage**

In the event that a policyholder replaces coverage with a new carrier, the policyholder must send proof of coverage (letter of assumption or copy of new policy) in order to cancel the BMIC policy on the effective date of the new coverage.

## **PREMIUM AUDIT – 800-809-4860**

The premium shown on your policy is an estimate based on your business's classifications and premium basis at the time your policy is issued. An audit will be conducted at the conclusion of the policy period to determine the "final" audited premium using the actual premium basis and classifications that apply to your business covered by this policy. You may be contacted by a BMIC representative to conduct a physical onsite audit of your financial records or you may be requested to voluntarily submit information to BMIC to determine the "final" premium. WorkSafe policyholders with policies less than \$5,000 may qualify for voluntary audits. Premium Audit staff will determine accounts that qualify based on the previous year's audit and the current year's monthly reporting forms, and will mail forms to qualified policyholders. Your failure to cooperate with any audit request may result in BMIC estimating your final premium.

### **Variables affecting your audit**

#### *Classifications*

If at any time you have questions about properly classifying your operations, please contact Premium Audit at 800-809-4860.

#### *Subcontractors*

Subcontractors can represent an additional exposure to loss for you and the insurance company. Policyholders are required to pay premiums for all uninsured subcontractors, whether or not they have fewer than three employees. The following information outlines premium determination for subcontractors.

#### *Workers' Comp*

Policyholders will not be charged for the payroll of subcontractors if they provide Certificates of Insurance for all subcontractors to Builders Mutual. Without a Certificate of Insurance the amount paid to the subcontractors will be treated as remuneration and a premium charge will be made. This requirement includes subcontractors who do not have employees.

Subcontractor waivers are *not* accepted.

### **Your records**

As a business owner, you know the importance of keeping accurate records. After the expiration of each policy period, a Builders Mutual auditor will contact you for an appointment. Completing the audit helps to ensure you are paying the right price for your Builders Mutual insurance coverage. Remember, records that are properly maintained allow for a fair audit to be completed.

When it's time for your annual audit, the following records will be required by your auditor:

- Cash disbursement journal showing monthly totals for:
  - (1) materials
  - (2) subcontractors
  - (3) casual labor
- Payroll journal and summary showing:
  - (1) monthly and quarterly totals
  - (2) separate totals by type of work
  - (3) separate overtime records
  - (4) check register
  - (5) federal quarterly reports and NC employer's quarterly tax & wage report
  - (6) W2s and W3s, 1099s and 1096s
- Also necessary for payroll are individual earning records showing:
  - (1) type of work performed
  - (2) gross payroll by month and quarter
  - (3) overtime by month and quarter.

Basis of premium is the entire remuneration, cash or non-cash. This can include overtime, bonuses, vacation pay, commissions, and sick pay. Exceptions to remuneration include the premium portion of overtime, tips, severance pay, and payment to group insurance or pension plans.

## **RISK MANAGEMENT - 800-809-4858**

The Risk Management personnel at Builder Mutual are focused on safety and the prevention of injury and other business-related losses. Emphasis is placed on education so owners can develop their own approach to integrated safety and risk management.

### **Available classes**

#### ***Fall Protection (bilingual)***

According to the most current statistics from OSHA falls are the number one killer of construction workers. Also, fifty cents of each dollar paid in claims by Builders Mutual is paid due to fall-related claims. These statistics led Builders Mutual to create a class designed specifically around the prevention of falls. The two-hour fall protection class explains why fall protection is needed in residential construction and demonstrates how to properly use common fall protection. Training manuals and a Risk Management diskette or CD are provided to each attendee.

#### ***OSHA 4- and 10-hour Construction Industry Safety Courses***

OSHA recently began to crack down on safety guidelines and targeted metropolitan areas that have a high concentration in the construction industry. Many contractors were either unaware or uneducated on these guidelines and received large fines due to non-compliance. Builders Mutual Insurance Company provides these classes to educate contractors so they are aware of the OSHA guidelines and to provide guidelines on how to develop a safety program. Each attendee receives a class workbook, a Risk Management CD and a course completion card from Federal OSHA. Builders Mutual instructors are authorized by Federal OSHA as Outreach Instructors for this course.

### **Risk Management CD**

This interactive CD contains a sample fall protection plan, safety program and HazCom program, providing general guidelines you can follow when creating your own programs. The CD also contains approximately 52 toolbox safety talks and several other safety-related documents that can be loaded into Word and WordPerfect and modified to your individual needs. There is a link to the Builders Mutual Insurance Company web site and an area where you can email Builders Mutual for more safety information.

### **Fall Protection DVD (bilingual)**

This DVD was developed to make contractors and employees more aware of current residential construction fall protection methods and practices. It provides practical information on issues such as OSHA fall protection, harnesses and guardrails. For informational purposes only.

### **Scaffold Safety DVD (bilingual)**

This awareness DVD was developed to provide practical information on safe methods and practices of setup, use and takedown of scaffolds in residential construction applications. For informational purposes only.

### **STUFF**

Builders Mutual's online STUFF site allows you to purchase necessary safety equipment at discounted prices. Go to [buildersmutual.com](http://buildersmutual.com) and click on STUFF.

## CLAIMS - 800-809-4862

### Reporting Claims

To report a claim, call 800-809-4862 or contact your agent.

### Drug testing

Individuals who have a drug or alcohol dependency may view the Workers' Compensation system as a means for sustaining an illegal or irresponsible lifestyle without accountability for returning to the workplace. The compensation rate of 66.7% of wages may tempt a deceptive employee to feign injury, particularly those which are difficult to prove such as costly back and muscle strains.

Drug or alcohol abuse poses a direct threat to the well being of the user, the workplace and to the public at large. As you know, the public expects that employees will not be diminished or impaired on the job as a result of drug or alcohol abuse. The public expects that all employees are coherent and have good motor-sensory coordination in any work environment or activity including but not limited to: the construction site, in a shop, operating machinery, carrying materials, driving vehicles, or working at dangerous heights.

Users of drugs and alcohol also present a threat to the security of person and property. Studies show that drug and alcohol use may be a precursor to criminal conduct. Assaults are the leading cause of death in the workplace.

Accordingly, BMIC has adopted a Policy requiring post-injury drug and alcohol testing arising out of any alleged work-related accident. In order to receive workers' compensation coverage, **BMIC expects each employer to notify its employees of this Policy in order that they may be potentially eligible to receive workers' compensation benefits.**

BMIC has enclosed a Notice of this Policy together with an Acknowledgment Form which should be made available to all employees. In the event of an alleged on-the-job injury arising out of an alleged work-related accident, the employee will be tested at the time medical treatment is first administered. Pursuant to our policy, BMIC shall pay the cost of this Drug and Alcohol Test as a reasonable expense incurred at BMIC's request.

If the provider refuses to administer a drug and alcohol test, contact the Claims department at 1-800-809-4862 while the injured is at the medical facility. This will enable the Claims department to contact the medical provider to make arrangements to have a drug and alcohol test administered.

## FORMS AND THEIR PURPOSE

The following information includes an outline of forms that are necessary to administer or change a policyholder's coverage.

**Certificate of Exemption from Coverage (Form WCA-2)** – For corporations only. Its execution and submission to BMIC will exempt corporate officers from coverage under the Workers' Compensation Act. (Note: Under the Workers' Compensation Act, corporate officers are automatically included for coverage unless they file this Certificate of Exemption.)

**Revocation of Certificate of Exemption from Coverage (Form WCA-3)** - For corporations only. Its execution and submission will allow BMIC to revoke a previously submitted Certificate of Exemption.

**Notice of Election of Coverage (Form WCA-4)** - For sole proprietors and partnerships only. Its execution and submission will allow BMIC to provide coverage for the sole proprietor and/or partners. (Note: Under the Workers' Compensation Act, sole proprietors and partners are not automatically covered. Coverage may only be obtained by filing this Notice of Election of Coverage.)

**Withdrawal of Election of Coverage (Form WCA-5)** - For sole proprietors and partnerships only. Its execution and submission will allow BMIC to revoke a previously submitted Notice of Election.

**Employee Notice (Form 17)** – The North Carolina Workers' Compensation Act requires this notice to be posted in a conspicuous location where *all* employees can see it.

**Employer's Report of Injury to Employee (Form 19)** – The law requires you as the employer to report an injury within five days of your notification and to provide a copy of the Form 19 to the injured employee. Failure to do so could cause a fine to be levied against you. Proper reporting will aid with prompt payment of claims that are covered. A claims representative will complete the Form 19 if the injury is reported by telephone. Copies of the form will be mailed to the employer and injured employee.

**Wage Statement (Form 22)** – When reporting an accident that requires the injured to be out of work for more than seven days, a Form 22 needs to be completed at the time the accident is reported.

If the injured employee has been an employee for a year or more, wages and days worked for the year prior to the accident date will be needed to calculate the average weekly wage and compensation rate.

*Example:*

Date of Injury 5-19-00

The Wage Chart should show "X" on all days worked from 5-21-99 through 5-19-00.

If the injured employee has been employed less than one year, the statement should show "Xs" on *all* days worked and the *gross* earnings for this period of time.

If the injured employee has been employed three months or less, two wage statement forms need to be completed. This is needed to calculate the appropriate compensation rate for the injured employee. The first statement is completed for the injured employee for *all* days worked and *gross* earnings for this time period. The second statement is completed on a similar employee who has been employed as close to a year as possible. This similar employee should be someone making the same rate per hour and who works the same number of hours as the injured employee.

**Mileage (Form 25T)** – Complete this form when the injured employee must travel for medical treatment, provided he/she travels 20 miles or more roundtrip. If an overnight stay is required, *any and all* receipts must be attached to this form.

**Return to Work (Forms 28 and 28T)** – When an injured employee returns to work, please call our office immediately. Complete Return to Work (Form 28) when an employee returns to full duty. Form 28T should be completed is the injured employee returns to work with restrictions, by way of limited hours, at limited duty, or when the employee is not receiving full salary (example: no heavy lifting). Failure to advise us immediately of the return to work date could result in overpayment to the employee.