

ADVISORY NO. 421
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**TOPIC: STATE MILEAGE RATES AND TRAVEL EXPENSE
RATES HAVE INCREASED**

Effective January 1, 2008, the State has increased its travel expense reimbursement rates. Because workers' compensation travel reimbursement is tied to the rate of reimbursement for state employees, the amount of reimbursement to be given to injured workers for travel incurred on or after January 1, 2008 has also increased.

Effective January 1, 2008 the current travel reimbursement rates are:

Lodging: up to \$85.00 per day

Meals: up to \$36.00 per day

Mileage: 50.5 cents per mile (new as of January 1, 2008)

A claimant may request reimbursement from a carrier for travel expenses incurred for medical treatment for the injured worker's compensable injury when: medical treatment for the compensable injury is not reasonably available within 30 miles from where the employee lives; and the distance traveled to secure medical treatment is greater than 30 miles one-way. Rule 134.110(a).

The injured worker must submit a Request for Travel Reimbursement (DWC Form-48) to the Carrier within one year of the date the expenses were incurred. Rule 134.110(b). The request must include documentation or evidence (such as itemized receipts) of the amount of the expense. Rule 134.110(c). Reimbursement is based on the travel rate for state employees on the date of travel. Rule 134.110(d). See Rule 134.110(d) for the methods used in measuring travel mileage.

Also, please note that the Division has taken the position recently (APD 060440-s) that reimbursement for travel expenses, including food and lodging is only available to an injured worker, and is not available under Rule 134.110 for family members of an injured worker.