



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Division of Industrial Accidents

Leverett Saltonstall Building, Government Center

100 Cambridge Street, Boston 02202

I.A.B. FILE NO.
ATTENTION OF:

August 28, 1986

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 223

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: JOEL M. PRESSMAN, COMMISSIONER
RE: AWARDS FOR DISFIGUREMENTS UNDER SECTION 36
OF CHAPTER 152

THE DEPARTMENT INTENDS TO UTILIZE A NEW METHOD FOR CALCULATING DISFIGUREMENT AWARDS FOR INJURIES AFTER JANUARY 1, 1986. FOR INJURIES PRIOR TO THAT DATE WE WILL CONTINUE TO USE THE GUIDELINES FOUND IN CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 219. THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES IN THE METHOD FOR DETERMINING AWARDS FOR LOSSES OF FUNCTION. WE INVITE YOUR COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER IMPROVEMENTS.

Very truly yours,


Joel M. Pressman
Commissioner

JMP/ejm

DISFIGUREMENT GUIDELINES FOR INJURIES AFTER JANUARY 1, 1986

MAXIMUM DISFIGUREMENT AWARD = 32X STATE AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE (SAWW) ON DATE OF INJURY

(X = TIMES THE SAWW)

	<u>FACE</u>	<u>ARM (OTHER THAN HAND OR WRIST)</u>	<u>HAND & WRIST</u>	<u>LEG (OTHER THAN FOOT)</u>	<u>FOOT</u>
VERY SLIGHT	1x - 6x	½x - 2x	1x - 4x	½x - 2x	1x - 3x
SLIGHT	6½x - 12½x	2½x - 4½x	4½x - 8½x	2½x - 4½x	3½x - 6½x
MODERATE	13x - 19x	5x - 7x	9x - 13x	5x - 7x	7x - 10x
SEVERE	19½x - 26½x	7½x - 10½x	13½x - 17½x	7½x - 10½x	10½x - 14x
VERY SEVERE	27x - 32x	11x - 13x	18x - 22x	11x - 13x	14½x - 18x
	<u>HEAD (OTHER THAN FACE)</u>	<u>CHEST, STOMACH AND GROIN</u>	<u>BACK</u>	<u>NECK</u>	<u>LIMP</u>
VERY SLIGHT	1x - 4x	1x - 3x	½x - 2½x	½x - 2x	1x - 6x*
SLIGHT	4½x - 8½x	3½x - 6½x	3x - 5½x	2½x - 4½x	6½x - 12x*
MODERATE	9x - 13x	7x - 10x	6x - 8½x	5x - 7x	13x - 19x*
SEVERE	13½x - 17½x	10½x - 14x	9x - 11½x	7½x - 10½x	19x - 26½x (crutches or walker)
VERY SEVERE	18x - 22x	14½x - 18x	12x - 15x	11x - 13x	27x (wheelchair)

INGUINAL HERNIA SCAR

1x

*Permanent need of a cane is also considered when determining bodily disfigurement