The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Department of Industrial Accidents

600 Washington Street
Boston, Mass. 12111

JOEL M. PRESSMAN
Commissioner

March 11, 1987

CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 232

TO: ALL INSURERS

FROM: JOEL M. PRESSMAN, COMMISSIONER

As you know, on November 1, 1986 the workers' compensation law
on the reporting of work-related injuries was changed. As of
that date, the employer must report to the Department, to you
and to the employee each injury which results in the loss of five .
days of work. The report must be filed within five days (not
counting Sundays and holidays) of the fifth day of lost work.
Other injuries need only be reported quarterly in log form. The
appropriate forms for both reports are available from the Department.

Although the Department has made several efforts to alert employers
to these changes, there has been a significant amount of non-
compliance with the new reporting law. For the first time the
Department has been able to monitor employer reporting. Since
November 1st we have found more than 2500 violations of the
reporting statute with monetary penalties amounting to more than
$2 million.

The importance of compliance with these reporting requirements
cannot be stressed too much. The new workers' compensation
statute is designed to speed the processing of claims and requests
for discontinuance. However, its effectiveness depends on the
cooperation of employers, employees and their counsel and insurers.
The Department will levy penalties when necessary to assure complianc

This letter is to ask you to help us educate your policyholders.
We intend to begin levying penalties on May 1, 1987. Penalties
accrued for violations prior to that date will be excused. We
are not in the business of collecting revenue and want to give
employers every opportunity to comply with the law. We are in
the business of making the workers' compensation law work. After
May 1, 1987, we will take vigorous action against employers who
violate the law. We would appreciate your doing whatever you can   .
to apprise your policyholders of this situation.