

Appendix F

Mercury Poisoning

Background

Workplaces contaminated with metals such as mercury can cause health problems, which may become permanent. The nervous system, blood, intestines, kidneys and the reproductive system can be damaged.

Guidelines

1. Compensation benefits will not be granted to workers who:
 - a. Have no symptoms of mercury poisoning, and
 - b. A 24-hour urinary mercury excretion of 100 micrograms or less.
2. However, the worker may be eligible for any time loss directly related to the investigation of the claim for mercury poisoning.
3. Compensation benefits are payable if:
 - a. A worker has symptoms of mercury poisoning, including physical signs, and
 - b. A 24-hour urinary mercury excretion in excess of 100 micrograms.

The worker will be eligible for wage loss benefits because of time loss related to the exposure. This includes any time loss related to the investigation of the claim and for treatment. The worker may also require relocation to a work environment which does not involve mercury exposure until the signs and symptoms have disappeared and the mercury excretion levels have fallen to normal.

4. Workers who have no symptoms of mercury poisoning, but who on a routine screening have urinary mercury excretion in excess of 300 micrograms per 24 hours, will have their claim accepted and will be provided relocation assistance. Workers will be relocated to employment not involving mercury exposure until their mercury excretion has dropped to normal levels.