OFFICE OF SELF-INSURANCE

JUNE 2026

In the Spotlight: Excess Insurance

- Excess insurance policies for private workers' compensation self-insurers are required under NYCRR §316.2.
- Policies may be for any length of time but must be renewed prior to expiration of existing policy.
- Employers must submit a ***Certification of Excess Insurance Contract for Self-Insurer (Form SI-21)***, completed by their excess carrier, evidencing proof of policy.
- All covered self-insured entities (parent and subsidiary companies) must be named on the ***SI-21*** form.
- If a claim reaches the self-insured retention (SIR) level, the employer should submit a ***Form SI-22***, executed by the excess carrier, evidencing that the excess carrier has accepted liability for the claim.
- Employers must seek approval from the Office of Self-Insurance prior to increasing their approved SIR level.
- Employers should be aware of policy notice requirements for cases nearing SIR levels. Failure to provide proper and timely notice could result in a denial of the claim by the excess carrier.

Welcome!

Welcome to the 2026 issue of our annual Self-Insurance newsletter. Our goal for this publication is to provide the self-insured employer community with important information and reminders to help maintain their self-insured status.

Important Information and Updates

Security deposit calculation information

The Board's Office of Self-Insurance re-calculates security deposits for all active self-insurers in the fall of each year.

Important Information and Updates (cont'd)

Unallocated Loss Adjustment Expenses (ULAE) % change

The Office of Self-Insurance unit obtains the ULAE percentage from the New York Compensation Insurance Rating Board (NYCIRB) each year, which is used to calculate security deposit requirements. The updated ULAE for 2026 is **8.5%**.

New York State Average Weekly Wage (NYSAWW), maximum and minimum weekly benefits, and workers' compensation self-insured statutory minimum security deposit

- The NYS Department of Labor reported the updated NYSAWW for calendar year 2025 is **$1,922.25**.
- The maximum weekly workers' compensation benefit for injuries or accidents occurring between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, is **$1,281.50**.
- The minimum weekly workers' compensation benefit for injuries or accidents occurring between July 1, 2026, and June 30, 2027, is **$384.45**.
- Effective July 1, 2026, the statutory minimum security deposit is **$1,999,000.00**.

Paid Family Leave (PFL) benefits maximum rate

Effective January 1, 2027, the maximum weekly PFL benefit is **$1,287.91**.

Third-party administrator (TPA) changes for Special Fund for Reopened Cases (25-a) and other claims

As of December 1, 2025, many 25-a and other claims changed TPAs, moved from NCAComp, Inc. and SAFE LLC to FCS Administrators. Learn more.

Reminders

Reminder to notify the Office of Self-Insurance of any changes to your status

Record Update Forms (RUF) help our office maintain current and accurate information for self-insurers in the event we need to contact an employer. The Office of Self-Insurance requires a ***RUF*** every time there is a change to a self-insurer's status and/or information, including changes to:

- Third-party administrators (TPA)
- Primary, claims, assessment, and/or security deposit contacts
- Corporate name of a parent or subsidiary
- Corporate mailing address
- Corporate structure changes, such as mergers, acquisitions, and/or divestments.
  - Any newly acquired subsidiary the employer would like to cover under its existing self-insurance must submit an application to be self-insured on a consolidated basis with their parent company. A subsidiary is not automatically covered.

Reminders (cont'd)

E-mails regarding self-insurance matters

When requesting assistance or sending information to the Office of Self-Insurance, emails should be sent to the central mailbox at selfinsurance@wcb.ny.gov

- Emailing a specific staff member may delay response/resolution if they are out of the office.
- The central mailbox is always monitored and will ensure the quickest response.
- Emails should include the employer name and ID number ("W Number") to ensure the communication is routed to the proper team for handling.

Actuarial reports

Guidance for completing actuarial reports can be found on the self-insured page of the Board's website.

Proof of coverage

- You may request an ***SI-12*** or ***DB-155*** form anytime by sending requests to selfinsurance@wcb.ny.gov.
- A list of self-insurers and their Insurer ID numbers can be found on the Board's website.
- Anyone can search using the "Does Employer Have Coverage" tab on the Board's website to verify coverage.

Form Updates/Changes

- ***Application for Self-Insurance (Form SI-1)***: The notary requirement has been removed from this form.
- ***Application for Self-Insurance-Disability and Paid Family Leave Benefits (Form DB-150)***: The notary requirement has been removed from this form.
- ***Self-Insurer's Report of Payroll for All Operations (Form SI-6)*** has the following updates:
  - A space has been added for the Insurer Identification Number ("W" Number).
  - A ZIP code subscript has been added to the address line.
- ***Notice of Election (Form SI-26)*** by a municipality as a self-insurer.
  - Municipalities may now indicate if they are applying for individual or group self-insurance.

DID YOU KNOW?

- You can sign up for Board notifications to receive email or text updates about news relevant to self-insured entities and other topics of interest: WCB Notifications.
- The New York Self-Insurers Association (NYSIA) is a not-for-profit organization that serves member businesses by keeping them informed about important developments in the area of self-insurance, while promoting and protecting their vital interests. Learn more about NYSIA.

Important Dates

- **DECEMBER:** First reminder that annual reports, ***Self-Insurer's Report of Payroll for All Operations (Form SI-6)***, and actuarial reports are due by **April 1**. Requests for an exemption from filing an actuarial report are due by **February 1**. Criteria for exemption eligibility are:
  - fewer than 20 open claims (any claim with ongoing indemnity or medical payments); and
  - less than $1,000,000 in total reserves.
- **JANUARY 31:** ***Self-Insurer Annual Report for Calendar Year*** and ***Disability and Paid Family Leave Benefits Law (Form DB-681)*** due.
- **FEBRUARY 1:** Exemption requests due.
- **JANUARY-FEBRUARY:** Actuarial exemption requests reviewed and determinations sent to employers.
- **FEBRUARY:** Second reminder that annual reports are due by **April 1**.
- **APRIL 1:** Actuarial reports and ***SI-6*** Report of Payroll due.
- **APRIL-AUGUST:** Financial and actuarial data reviewed; security deposit re-calculations finalized.
- **SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER:** Self-insured entities are notified of deposit changes.
- **OCTOBER:** Disability Benefits (DBL) and Paid Family Leave (PFL) deposit re-calculations.
- **NOVEMBER:** Workers' compensation security deposit increases must be posted.
- **DECEMBER:** DB-PFL deposit increases must be submitted.

Other Info

Self-Insurer's Representative Bonds

The Office of Self-Insurance does not handle Self-Insurer's Representative Bonds. These types of Bonds should be submitted to the Workers' Compensation Board's Licensing Office. For assistance with these Bonds, please e-mail licensing@wcb.ny.gov.

Make sure you have the latest version of self-insurance forms!

- Forms are often updated (e.g., surety bonds and riders).
- Forms may require new or different information.
- Request the latest forms from the Office of Self-Insurance. Write to: selfinsurance@wcb.ny.gov.

Other Info (cont'd)

Revised financial contingencies

Originally 0%, 15%, 25%, 50%; now just 0%, 15%, 25%.

Security deposit instruments

- Deposits may be posted in the form of cash, letter of credit, surety bond, or any combination of the three.
- All banks issuing letters of credit or surety bonds for security deposits must meet the rating requirements of the Workers' Compensation Board. If you are considering working with a new bank to post your deposit, please check with the Office of Self-Insurance to determine if the bank or surety company is acceptable.

Claims administration

- If you choose to use a TPA, or change your existing TPA, please be aware all TPAs administering workers' compensation must be licensed.
- If you change your TPA, you must notify the Office of Self-Insurance.

Parentage

If you have been acquired by a new parent company, your parent company changes its name, and/or you intend to submit consolidated financials under a new parent's name, please contact the Office of Self-Insurance to see if you need to submit a new ***Agreement of Parent and Subsidiary Corporations for Consolidated Deposits (Form SI-15)*** or ***Agreement for Payment of Workers' Compensation Liability (Form SI-15.6)***.

Assessments

The Office of Self-Insurance does not handle assessments for self-insurers. For questions or assistance related to assessments, please contact the Board's Office of Finance at wcbfinanceoffice@wcb.ny.gov.

Penalties

The Office of Self-Insurance does not issue or handle penalties. For questions or assistance related to penalties, please contact the Board's Office of Compliance at icuwebmail@wcb.ny.gov.

The Office of Self-Insurance is here to help. Have trouble completing the required form? Have questions about your self-insurance coverage? Need an updated form? Not sure how to complete an annual report? Just e-mail selfinsurance@wcb.ny.gov and a staff member will be glad to assist you.

The New York State Workers' Compensation Board protects the rights of employees and employers by ensuring the proper delivery of benefits and by promoting compliance with the law. To learn more about the Board, visit wcb.ny.gov.