



S O C I A L
S E C U R I T Y
A G E N C Y

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit (Diseases)

A basic guide to:

- **Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefits** if you have:

- diseases caused by working with asbestos;
- asthma;
- chronic bronchitis or emphysema (or both);
- deafness;
- pneumoconiosis (a lung disease cause by breathing in dust);
- tenosynovitis (inflammation of the area surrounding a tendon);
- vibration white finger (a disease caused by the use of hand-held or powered tools);
- certain other diseases

- **Reduced Earnings Allowance;**
- **Income Support; and**
- **Pension Credit.**

Contents

Benefits you may be able to get.....	3
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.....	5
A disease caused by working with asbestos.....	6
Asthma.....	6
Chronic bronchitis or emphysema or both.....	7
Deafness because of work.....	7
Pneumoconiosis.....	8
Tenosynovitis.....	8
Vibration white finger.....	8
Other diseases.....	8
Reduced Earnings Allowance (REA).....	9
Income Support.....	9
Pension Credit.....	10
How to claim.....	11
Where to get help and advice.....	12

Benefits you may be able to get

if you are ill or disabled because of a disease or deafness caused by work

This leaflet is a basic guide to the main benefits you may be able to get under the Industrial Injuries scheme, and the main rules for each benefit. Please check these carefully to see if you qualify.

If you have a question which is not answered in this leaflet, or if you just want more advice, please contact Industrial Injuries Branch or ring the Benefit Enquiry Line (BEL). See the back of this leaflet for where to get help and advice.

Check first what benefit or benefits you may be able to get.

If you become ill or disabled as a result of a disease or deafness caused by a job you have done, you should see page 5 for details of **Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit**.

Many diseases and disabilities which are a result of work are covered by the Industrial Injuries scheme. These can be as a result of physical, biological or chemical or other causes.

There are currently over 70 diseases including:

- diseases caused by working with asbestos;
- asthma;
- chronic bronchitis and emphysema
- deafness;
- pneumoconiosis (lung disease from breathing in mineral dust);
- tenosynovitis (inflammation round a tendon);
- vibration white finger.

If your illness or disability is caused by another disease, check with the Industrial Injuries Branch to see if it is covered by the Industrial Injuries scheme.

If you became disabled because of an accident at work, you may also be able to get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit. For more information, get leaflet **IIDBAA5NI** "*Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit - Accidents*"

If you became ill or disabled because of working with asbestos, you may also be able to get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit. For more information, get leaflet **SD8** "*Are you ill or disabled because of working with asbestos in your job?*"

You can only get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit if your disease or deafness was caused by work you have done for an employer on or after 5 July 1948. If you contracted pneumoconiosis, byssinosis or certain other diseases because of work you did before 5 July 1948, you may be able to get cash help under the **Pneumoconiosis, Byssinosis and Miscellaneous Diseases Benefit Scheme**.

For more information about this, contact the Industrial Injuries Branch

If you cannot do your usual job or other work with similar pay because of an accident or disease caused by work, and you are suffering from an illness or disability which began before 1 October 1990 you may be entitled to claim Reduced Earnings Allowance.

If you have a disease that was caused by your employer not doing something he or she should have done, you may be able to get **compensation through the courts**. Ask your trade union or a solicitor for advice.

You should see page 10 for details of Income Support if you or your partner are on a low income and you are:

- sick or disabled;
- a lone parent;
- caring for someone who is ill or disabled; or
- registered blind.

You should see page 10 for details of Pension Credit if you or your partner are on a low income and aged 60 or over.

We use partner to mean a person you are married to or a person you are living with as if you were married to them, or a civil partner or a person you live with as if you are civil partners.

If your illness or disability is caused by work which ended before 5 July 1948, contact:

**Industrial Injuries Branch
Castle Court
Belfast BT1 1SD.**

Phone: 028 9033 6000

If you became ill or disabled as a result of your service in HM Armed Forces, or because of a war, you may be able to get help from the War Pensions Scheme.

Please contact:

**The Veterans Agency
Marlborough House
Victoria Street
Belfast
BT1 3GG.**

You can also phone the Veterans Agency Helpline on **0800 169 2277**.

The Pneumoconiosis etc. (Workers' Compensation) (NI) Order 1979

This 1979 scheme provides lump-sum payments to sufferers of certain dust related diseases (or their dependants if the person has died) who could not take civil action because their former employers have stopped trading. For more information contact

**Industrial Injuries Branch
Room 309
Castle Court
Belfast
BT1 1SD
Tel. no. 028 90336000**

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

- You must have done certain types of work to claim this benefit.
- We will not pay Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit if you were self-employed when you developed the disease or became deaf
- The amount of benefit you get depends on how serious your disability is. We may need you to have a medical examination. The medical advisor will give us advice about how seriously you are disabled and how long they expect your disability to last.

Do you have one of the following because of a job you have done?

- ✓ A disease caused by working with asbestos.
- ✓ Asthma.
- ✓ Chronic bronchitis or emphysema or both.
- ✓ Deafness.
- ✓ Pneumoconiosis.
- ✓ Tenosynovitis.
- ✓ Vibration white finger.
- ✓ Another illness that may be covered by the Industrial Injuries scheme.

If you have answered 'Yes' to at least one of the above, you can claim Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit.

- If you are claiming Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit because of a disease which is not mentioned in this leaflet, check with the Industrial Injuries Branch to see if it is covered by the Industrial Injuries scheme.
- If you get Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit at the 100% rate and need daily care and attention, you may get Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA). This is paid at four different rates.
- If you get 1 of the 2 higher rates of CAA and you need permanent constant care and attention, you may also get Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance.

A disease because of working with asbestos

- You must have one of the following five diseases because of working with asbestos.
 - Pneumoconiosis (asbestosis).
 - Mesothelioma.
 - Primary carcinoma of the lung
 - Primary carcinoma of the lung where there is accompanying evidence of asbestosis.
 - Unilateral or bilateral diffuse pleural thickening with obliteration of the costophrenic angle.
- You must have worked in a job which meant you came into contact with asbestos. The level of contact must be above the level that is normally found in the air.
- We may need to contact your employer to check what jobs you have done.
- We will need you to have a medical examination. The doctor will give us advice about:
 - whether you have one of the five diseases listed above;
 - how seriously you are disabled; and
 - how long they expect your disability to last.
- For more information, see leaflet **SD8** *'Are you ill or disabled because of working with asbestos in your job?'*

Asthma

- At some time in the 10 years before you claim, you must have been in contact at work with a substance that causes your asthma.
- We may need you to have a medical examination. The medical advisor will give us advice about:
 - whether you have asthma;
 - how seriously you are disabled; and
 - how long they expect your disability to last.

Chronic bronchitis or emphysema or both

- You must have worked underground in a coal mine. The work must have lasted for 20 years or more, but can be for more than one employer.
- The 20 years does not have to be one unbroken period and we may be able to ignore breaks in employment.
- We will usually need you to take a breathing test to see if your disability is serious enough for you to get benefit. We may also need you to go for a medical examination.

Deafness because of work

- You must have worked for at least 10 years in certain jobs that are known to cause deafness.
- You may also be able to get benefit if you worked very closely to someone who was doing a job that was known to cause deafness.
- The work must have been within five years of the date you claim.
- We will arrange for your hearing to be tested.
- Your hearing loss must be at least 50 decibels in each ear because of damage to your inner ear. In at least one ear, this must be caused by noise at work.
- After the hearing test, the medical advisor will give us advice about:
 - whether your deafness was caused by work; and
 - how badly you are disabled because of your deafness.

Pneumoconiosis

(A group of lung diseases caused by breathing in mineral dust.)

- This includes silicosis and asbestosis.
- You must have worked in certain jobs which meant you came into contact with dust.
- We may need you to have a medical examination. The medical advisor will give us advice about:
 - whether you have pneumoconiosis;
 - how seriously you are disabled; and
 - how long they expect your disability to last.
- You may also need to have a chest x-ray.

Tenosynovitis

- You must have worked in a job involving physical work or regular and repeated movements of the hand or wrist.
- We may need you to have a medical examination. The medical advisor will give us advice about:
 - whether you have tenosynovitis;
 - how seriously you are disabled; and
 - how long they expect your disability to last.

Vibration white finger

- You must have worked in certain jobs that are known to cause vibration white finger.
- Whether you can get benefit depends on how many of your fingers are affected and how badly.
- We may need you to have a medical examination. The medical advisor will give us advice about:
 - whether you have vibration white finger;
 - how seriously you are disabled; and
 - how long they expect your disability to last.

Other diseases

The Industrial Injuries scheme also covers the following diseases caused by work.

- Diseases caused by radiation.
- Diseases caused by contact with certain dangerous chemicals.
- Diseases caused by contact with certain biological agents such as animals, plants or other organisms.
- Carpal tunnel syndrome caused by using hand-held power tools with internal vibrating parts, or repeated movement of the wrist.
- Dermatitis (a skin disease).

If you want to know whether a disease is covered by the scheme, check with the Industrial Injuries Branch.

See page 11 for details of how to claim.

Reduced Earnings Allowance (REA)

- You may get help if you cannot earn as much as you normally could because of a disease caused by work or an accident at work.

Are you:

- ✓ unable to do your usual job or work with similar pay because of a disease caused by work; and
- ✓ suffering from a disease which began before 1 October 1990?

If you have answered 'Yes' to both of these questions, you can claim REA.

- If your REA is £2 or more a week, you reach state pension age and you are not in regular pay work, another benefit called Retirement Allowance will replace your REA.

See page 11 for details of how to claim.

Income Support

- Income Support is for people on a low income.
- If you have savings over £16000, this usually means you cannot get Income Support.
- If you are available for work, you cannot get Income Support.

Are you:

- ✓ aged 16 or over;
- ✓ on a low income; and
- ✓ not working, or working, on average, less than 16 hours a week (24 hours a week for your partner)?

If you have answered 'Yes' to all these questions, you can claim Income Support.

- If you have savings of over £6000, this will usually affect how much Income Support you can get.
- You may be able to get extra money to help towards certain housing costs.
- You can usually get extra money for your family.
- If you are a single parent, you will usually have to go to a meeting with a personal adviser before you can get Income Support.
- To see if you are on a low income for Income Support, check with your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office.

See page 11 for details of how to claim.

Pension Credit

Pension Credit is an entitlement for people aged 60 or over.

- It provides a contribution towards a guaranteed level of income.
- If you are aged 65 or over, Pension Credit also provides a reward for some of the savings and income you have for your retirement.

Are you:

- ✓ aged 60 or over with a weekly income of less than £119.05 if you are single, or £181.70 if you have a partner?
- ✓ aged 65 or over with a weekly income of less than £166.67 if you are single, or £244.85 if you have a partner?
- ✓ getting a higher weekly income than this but you have caring responsibilities, you are severely disabled or you have certain housing costs to meet, such as mortgage interest payments?

If you have answered 'Yes' to any of these questions, apply for Pension Credit.

For more information, get leaflet **PC1L** 'Pension Credit. Pick it up. It's yours' from your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office, or look at our website at www.dsdni.gov.uk

How to claim

1 When to claim

Claim straight away. If you delay, you may lose benefit.

2 Claim form

Contact the Industrial Injuries Branch or your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office for a claim form. For your nearest Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office, look for our advert in the business numbers section of the phone book.

Or you can ring the Benefit Enquiry Line (BEL). See '*Where to get help and advice*' at the back of this leaflet.

3 Filling in the form

Before you fill in your form, check that you are applying for all the benefits you may be entitled to. Use this leaflet as a guide.

If you are in a trade union, your union representative may be able to help with your claim.

4 Proof of identity

It is important that we can be sure of your identity when you make a claim. We may need to ask you about your background and look at any official documents you have to support the information you give.

If you are not sure about this, get leaflet **ISSP** '*How to prove your identity for social security*' from your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office.

Where to get help and advice

To get more information or other leaflets, get in touch with your Social Security or Jobs & Benefits office, or look for the Social Security Agency advert in the business numbers section of the phone book.

You can get more information from our website

www.dsdni.gov.uk

A confidential phone service is available for people with disabilities, and their carers. Ring the **Benefit Enquiry Line (BEL)** on **0800 22 06 74**.

If you have speech or hearing problems, and you use a textphone, phone **0800 24 37 87**.

The person taking your call will not have your personal papers but will be able to give you general advice. You must not take this advice to be a decision on any matter that you are asking about.

There are other benefits you may be able to get. You can get information on these from the following leaflets.

- RM1** A guide to benefits for people who are retiring or have retired
- SD4** Caring for someone?
- IIDBAA5NI** Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit- Accidents
- SD8** Are you ill or disabled because of working with asbestos in your job?
- BC2** Expecting a baby?
- BC3** Bringing up children?
- GL12** Going into hospital?
- GL16** Help with your rent
- GL18** Help from the Social Fund
- GL21** A helping hand for benefits
- How somebody with an illness or disability can get help to collect or deal with Social Security benefits
- BRA5NI** Social Security benefit rates
- RR1** Help with your rent or Housing Benefit
- HC11** Are you entitled to help with health costs?
- PC1L** Pension Credit. Pick it up. It's yours.

Remember that this leaflet is only a general guide. It is not meant to say exactly what your legal rights are. While we have tried to make sure the information in this leaflet is correct at the date shown below, it is possible that some items may be oversimplified. Also please remember that the information in this leaflet is likely to become less accurate over time, for example because of changes to the law.

Leaflet IIDBDA5NI from October 2007
Produced by the Social Security Agency,
Incapacity Division Support Unit, Northern Ireland.



Produced for SSA(NI) by Corporate Document Services. XXXXXX/N109883/08/07