

Dear Partner:

Hello 2017! We hope that your New Year is off to a strong start and you are feeling ready to take on new challenges. We have several updates and deadlines this month for your association and for you to share with your members.

Mandatory Webinar for Sponsoring Associations:

As a Sponsoring Association you will need to participate in one of the Annual Safety Training Webinars this month. The first one was January 9th but you still have two more chances. The links to register are below.

Group Rating Annual Safety Training

As a group-experience or group-retrospective rating program sponsor for the January 1, 2016 PEC (public) rating year or July 1, 2016 PA (private) rating year, your organization is required to be represented at an annual training per OAC 4123-17-68.

The training will be delivered via **WEBINAR**.

You may select the date and time most convenient to you:

- **Tuesday, January 17, 2017 @ 1:30 pm**
[Register for this webinar](#)

- **Thursday, January 26 @ 9:30 am**
[Register for this webinar](#)

After registering, you'll receive a confirmation email message that contains detailed information about joining the event on your selected date with the option to add the event to your electronic calendar.

The webinar is scheduled to last approximately 90 minutes and will include BWC program updates and pertinent safety information to share with your members.

Questions can be directed to safetygrouprating@bwc.state.oh.us

Please keep these upcoming dates/deadlines in mind:

- * **January 24, 2017**
 - **Enrollment deadline for Group Retrospective Rating programs.**

- * **January 31, 2017**
 - Deductible Program application deadline to begin on 7/1/17.
 - Individual Retro rating application deadline to begin on 7/1/17.
 - One Claim Program application deadline to begin on 7/1/17.

Delays at BWC: Over the course of several days in November, BWC introduced a new computer system. Since then you may have noticed that invoices and statements, and general policy communications look a little different. We have also noticed is that it is taking a bit longer than usual for some documents, payments, and other communication to be processed as they adjust to their new system. If you are experiencing any such delays, please know that they are working on getting up to speed but if you need any assistance in tracking something down, we will do our best to help.

2017 Ohio Safety Congress & Expo: The 2017 event will be taking place from **March 8-10** at the Greater Columbus Convention Center. You can register now through this link <https://bwc.expoplanner.com/content/osc17/home/>.

Successorship: In Ohio if you purchase, acquire, or merge with another business, BWC will use specific guidelines to determine if the claims-and-risk experience will be transferred from the seller to the buyer. Attached, is the BWC Fact Sheet regarding this, as it was updated at the beginning of 2016. To summarize, **the experience will transfer from the predecessor policy to the successor policy most of the time**, unless these conditions apply:

- * A material change in ownership and the successor changed the business substantially
- * The main (“governing”) manual classification changed
- * The process and hazard of the operation changed

There are exceptions and other considerations of course, but if the business pursuit remains the same most likely the experience will transfer along with the sale. Since this could have far-reaching effects on workers’ comp program eligibility and premiums, we encourage your members to contact us if they are planning to purchase another business.

Unemployment Reminder: Unemployment tax rates increased for 2017. Get a good start on controlling your unemployment tax rate in the new year! Contact our unemployment manager, Kammy Staton at 614-526-7165 or kammy.staton@careworkscomp.com to discuss the multiple ways this service can benefit your business.

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