

Workers' Comp

Construction Dual-Wage Changes Ahead

AS INFLATION drives up wages in all sectors, nearly all of the workers' compensation dual class codes for the construction sector will be increasing as of Sept. 1, 2022.

Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara in July approved the recommendation by the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California to increase the wage thresholds for high-wage workers, who enjoy lower pure premium rates than those who are paid less. The new rates apply to all workers' comp policies incepting on or after Sept. 1.

Dual-wage thresholds divide high- and low-wage classifications in various construction industry sectors that have different pay structures for workers and which have proven to have different workers' comp injury rates and costs.

Statistically, higher-paid workers in a high-wage classification are less likely to suffer an on-the-job injury, which in turn means that their employers will pay a lower rate.

On the other hand, the low-wage/high workplace injury rate tier of employee in the dual-wage classification means higher workers' comp premium rates. ❖



CLASS CODE		2021 Threshold	2022 Threshold (as of Sept. 1)
5027/5028	Masonry	\$28	\$32
5183(1)/5187(1)	Plumbing	\$28	\$31
5183(2)/5187(2)	Refrigeration equipment	\$28	\$31
5183(3)/5187(3)	Heating or air conditioning equipment	\$28	\$31
5185/5186	Auto sprinkler install.	\$29	\$32
5190/5140	Electrical wiring	\$32	\$34
5201(1)/5205(1)	Concrete or cement work (pouring, finishing, patios, sidewalks, driveways, etc.)	\$28	\$32
5201(2)/5205(2)	Concrete or cement work (pouring, finishing of concrete floor slabs)	\$28	\$32
5403/5432	Carpentry	\$35	\$39
5446/5447	Wallboard installation	\$36	\$38
5467/5470	Glaziers	\$33	\$36
5474(1)/5482(1)	Painting, wall-paper install	\$28	\$31
5474(2)/5482(2)	Waterproofing	\$28	\$31
5474(3)/5482(3)	Painting, water, oil or gasoline storage tanks	\$28	\$31
5484/5485	Plastering, stucco work	\$32	\$36
5538(1)/5542(1)	Sheet metal work	\$27	\$29
5538(2)/5542(2)	Heating, AC ductwork	\$27	\$29
5552/5553	Roofing	\$27	\$29
5632/5633	Steel framing	\$35	\$39
6218(1)/6220(1)	Excavation	\$34	\$39
6218(2)/6220(2)	Grading land	\$34	\$39
6218(3)/6220(3)	Land leveling	\$34	\$39
6307/6308	Sewer construction	\$34	\$39
6315(1)/6316(1)	Water mains, connections construction	\$34	\$39
6315(2)/6316(2)	Gas mains, connections construction	\$34	\$39

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Resources for Protecting Workers From Wildfire Smoke

Cal/OSHA

- [Training videos](#) on wildfire smoke protection and using N-95 respirators
- [Guidance for employers and workers](#) on wildfire smoke
- [Frequently asked questions](#) about N-95 masks
- [Training Academy](#) (free resources in English and Spanish)

Western Center for Agricultural Health and Safety

- [Checklists, training handouts and posters](#) on smoke health effects, monitoring AQI
- [Pocket cards](#) for respirator use
- [Checklist](#) for wildfire smoke exposure