



WSIB **2006**
Premium
Rates **MANUAL**

SECTION 9

Non-Credible Rate Groups

NON-CREDIBLE RATE GROUPS

Ideally, each rate group defined in the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board's classification scheme should be credible, that is, large enough so that reasonably reliable estimates can be made for deriving premium rates from a rate group's own claims experience. Although this is generally the case, particular industries or services in Ontario can decline substantially as the economy undergoes changes and this can lead to a situation where a previously credible rate group becomes non-credible. In addition, some rate groups have reduced the number of injuries to a level where there is not enough information available to estimate the average cost of a claim and, as a result, the rate group becomes non-credible. As part of the ongoing activity of rate making, the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board (WSIB) monitor the credibility of rate groups.

When the WSIB is concerned that a particular rate group has become non-credible, and is likely to remain non-credible, the WSIB may decide to remove such a rate group from the classification scheme through some form of rate group merger, as of a specified date. Employers in the affected industries or services would continue to be insured, but under another rate group.

Since the original development of the WSIB's current classification scheme, which was introduced in 1993, a number of rate groups have become non-credible. Different approaches have been used to address the issue of non-credibility, depending on the circumstances of each rate group.

Data supporting the 2006 premium rates shows that under current criteria eleven rate groups are not fully credible. However, these rate groups have been treated as though they are credible for the 2006 premium rates.

It is possible that the experience of some of the non-credible rate groups may naturally return to a fully credible level, eliminating the need for additional review. However, it is expected that for some of these rate groups, the lack of credibility would need to be addressed more formally by the WSIB, possibly through reclassifications or rate group mergers.