



Self Insurance Electronic Data Reporting System (SIEDRS) and Online Reporting & Customer Access (ORCA) Project January 2006 Update

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Self-Insurance Technology

The new year is bringing new technology to the Self-Insurance program. The biggest changes are related to the SIEDRS and ORCA projects.

SIEDRS Project

SIEDRS Legislation passed

Substitute House Bill 1310 was signed into law on April 22, 2005. This legislation requires that L&I establish an electronic system for collecting self-insurance claim data. Self-insurers will be required to use the system beginning July 1, 2008.

Change in contact person

Mary Reister has accepted another position within L&I. Ginny Klapstein is again acting as the SIEDRS project lead for self insurance.

Data elements and reports identified

A SIEDRS workgroup, composed of approximately 17 members of the self-insured community, met in late 2004 and early 2005. This group began the difficult task of identifying the data elements to be transmitted to L&I, and the reports SIEDRS will produce. That work was continued by a smaller sub-committee, who presented their recommendations to the original workgroup on January 9, 2006. While there are some minor outstanding issues, the group agreed on the information that will appear on SIEDRS reports and the data elements self-insurers will send to L&I.

Programming underway

There is a significant amount of computer programming required to make SIEDRS work. It must securely receive claim data in bulk, make sure it meets L&I's validity criteria, update L&I's computer systems, and report any invalid data back to the submitting employer and/or third party administrator. In addition, SIEDRS reports, control reports, and changes to existing L&I systems must be programmed. This work is well underway and will continue throughout most of 2006.

Upcoming events

Volunteers needed: We will begin recruiting volunteers for testing and enrollment in May 2006. This will allow volunteers approximately four months to prepare their systems to submit data via SIEDRS. We plan to begin system testing with volunteers in October 2006.

Going "live": We are targeting January 2, 2007 as the date L&I's computer system will begin accepting data via SIEDRS.



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ORCA Project: Self-Insurance File Information (SIFI)

Imaging

Last biennium, L&I replaced the old State Fund imaging system with a new system (LUCI) that provides enhanced functionality and enables external customers to view documents via a secure account on the web. At the same time the technical framework was developed to provide imaging to other agency programs, including Self-Insurance, this biennium.

By early 2007, the SIFI system will provide the Self-Insurance staff access to claim and other file documents on our computers rather than having to order and work with microfiche. We will have faster access to documents as they are received in the department. When we have a question from a customer, they will be able to view a document immediately and respond rather than ordering microfiche and waiting for it to be delivered. Bottom line, SIFI will increase efficiency and improve our ability to provide customer service.

External Access

One of the most exciting features is the ability to provide secure access over the internet for self-insured employers, third party administrators (TPA), injured workers, attorneys, and attending physicians to view claim file images – with security measures to ensure that only those parties to a claim will have access. Only the TPA that is listed with L&I as the current, active representative for a self-insured employer will have access to the claim files for that employer.

The images will be viewed as PDF files over the internet. This access is planned to be available in 2007, a few months after the system is in use internally.

Self Insurance Microfiche Not Going Away

No one seems to enjoy dealing with microfiche. Even though Self-Insurance is converting to imaging, we are still going to be using microfiche – at least for the next few years.

Self-Insurance will no longer be creating microfiche for storage of new records once the imaging system is operational. So, in some cases, claim files will have newer documents available to view over the internet as images, while older documents are only available on microfiche. Also, if you request a copy of the file from Self-Insurance, it will be provided as microfiche.

Self-Insurance and State Fund: different programs, different features

Some providers and employers have been excited to hear about new electronic functions L&I is soon to be offering, such as filing the employer portion of the accident report on-line and injured workers updating their address or reviewing time loss payment information on the internet.

These are functions of the **Claim and Account Center (CAC)**, which is a project for State Fund claims. These capabilities are not available for self-insured claims.

For self-insured claims, workers and medical providers will still need to communicate new information or changes to their insurer, the self-insured employer.

Additional types of electronic transactions for self-insured claims may be coming in the future, but there is not a timeline.