Title 14 INDEPENDENT AGENCIES Subtitle 09 WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION

14.09.01 General Administrative

Authority: Health-General Article, §4-303; Labor and Employment Article, §§9-307, 9-309, 9-310.2, 9-314, 9-404, 9-405, 9-410, 9-602, 9-603, 9-610.1, 9-625, 9-635, 9-689, 9-701, 9-709, 9-710, 9-711, 9-721, 9-731, 9-736, 9-739, and 9-6A-07; Insurance Article, §§19-405 and 19-406; State Government Article, §10-1103; Annotated Code of Maryland

Notice of Proposed Action

[17-222-P]

The Workers' Compensation Commission proposes to amend Regulations **.01**, **.03**, and **.04** under **COMAR 14.09.01 General Administrative**. This action was considered at a public meeting held on June 22, 2017, notice of which was given by publication in 44:11 Md. R. 573 (May 26, 2017), pursuant to General Provisions Article, §3-302(c), Annotated Code of Maryland.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to facilitate the filing and service of forms and documents by electronic means, and to clarify that electronic signatures are permitted.

Comparison to Federal Standards

There is no corresponding federal standard to this proposed action.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Amy Lackington, Administrator, Workers' Compensation Commission, 10 E. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21202, or call 410-864-5300 (TTY 800-735-2258), or email to alackington@wcc.state.md.us, or fax to 410-864-5301. Comments will be accepted through January 22, 2018. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

Open Meeting

Final action on the proposal will be considered by the Workers' Compensation Commission during a public meeting to be held on February 8, 2018, at 10 E. Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21202.

.01 Definitions.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Terms Defined.

(1) - (15) (text unchanged)

(16) "Signature" includes electronic signature pursuant to Commercial Law Article, §21-101(i), Annotated Code of Maryland.

[(16)] (17) - [(21)] (22) (text unchanged)

.03 Service of Papers.

A. (text unchanged)

B. Service by Parties.

(1) - (2) (text unchanged)

(3) Service may be made by:

(a) (text unchanged)

(b) Leaving the papers at that person's office with an individual in charge, or, if there is no one in charge, leaving the papers in a conspicuous place in the office, or, if the office is closed or the person has no office, leaving the papers at the person's usual place of residence with an individual of suitable age and discretion residing there; [or]

(c) Mailing the papers to the address most recently stated in a paper filed by the party or attorney, or if not stated, to the last known address[.]; or

(d) Electronic means.

(4) (text unchanged)

(5) Service by electronic means is complete upon receipt of electronic filing or service.

[(5)] (6) (text unchanged)

.04 Filing Forms and Documents with the Commission.

[A. With the exception of filing and amending claims in accordance with Regulation 14.09.02.02, forms] *Forms* and documents may be filed with the Commission by one of the following methods:

[(1)]A. - [(3)]C. (text unchanged)

[B. All documents filed with the Commission after 4:30 p.m., electronically or otherwise, are considered to be received by the Commission on the next business day.]

R. KARL AUMANN Chairman