



# PREPROPOSAL STATEMENT OF INQUIRY

**CR-101 (June 2004)**  
(Implements RCW 34.05.310)  
Do **NOT** use for expedited rule making

**Agency:** Labor & Industries

**Subject of possible rule making:** Chapter 296-17 WAC General reporting rules, audit and recordkeeping, rates and rating system for Washington workers' compensation

**Statutes authorizing the agency to adopt rules on this subject** RCW 51.16.035

**Reasons why rules on this subject may be needed and what they might accomplish:** Labor & Industries is required by law to establish and maintain a workers' compensation plan that classifies all occupations or industries within the state and to set basic rates of premium for these classifications (RCW 51.16.035). Research indicates a need for clarity in rules for applying multiple classifications. Revisions are being considered for WAC 296-17-31017 and WAC 296-17-310171. The WAC currently states that employers must keep work records for each employee working in each basic classification to qualify for more than one basic classification. The WAC later states that "different employees must work in each basic classification." The proposed change will clarify the inconsistency and make it easier for staff and the public to understand the rule requirements.

**Identify other federal and state agencies that regulate this subject and the process coordinating the rule with these agencies:** No other state, local, or federal agency regulates this subject.

**Process for developing new rule (check all that apply):**

- Negotiated rule making
- Pilot rule making
- Agency study

Other (describe) Field Audit and Employer Services are working together to ensure consistency among relevant sections of the WAC. L&I will invite input from the business community by way of direct mailings, the Internet, informal public meetings, or more than one of these. L&I will use this input to formulate proposed changes to the existing rules and advise customers of future rule making by direct mailing, the Internet, or both.

**How interested parties can participate in the decision to adopt the new rule and formulation of the proposed rule before publication:**

Employer will be encouraged to participate in the process to share ideas and attend meetings. They can submit comments electronically to [colleen.nelson@lni.wa.gov](mailto:colleen.nelson@lni.wa.gov) or by calling (360) 902-4773 or by fax to (360) 9024729 or by mail to Colleen Nelson, Department of Labor & Industries, P. O. Box 44148, Olympia, WA 98504

**DATE**  
September 3, 2013

**NAME (TYPE OR PRINT)**  
Joel Sacks

**SIGNATURE**

**TITLE**  
Director

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STATE OF WASHINGTON  
FILED

**DATE: September 03, 2013**  
**TIME: 10:10 AM**

**WSR 13-18-061**