6802: Scheduled Airlines: Ground Crew Report DRAFT

Background/Purpose:

Work-related musculoskeletal disorders (WMSDs) account for nearly one-third of all Washington workers' compensation claims that result in time loss, are more severe than the average nonfatal injury or illness, and are a common cause of long-term disability in the state.

In 2023, the Washington State Legislature passed RCW 49.17.520, allowing L&I to adopt workplace safety regulations to prevent WMSDs in industries or risk classes that met specific eligibility criteria in accordance with the law. Only one rule for either an industry or risk classification can be adopted within a 12-month period. On October 29, 2024, L&I announced that Scheduled Airlines - Ground Crew Operations, Risk Class 6802, which has a WMSD claim rate of more than 10 times the overall state rate, was selected for the first rulemaking effort.

The purpose of this report is to provide more detailed information regarding WMSD compensable claims characteristics and employer characteristics in the 6802-00, 'Scheduled Airlines: Ground Crew' risk classification (RC). These data are representative of the years from the most recent 'Industries and Risk Classifications Eligible for Ergonomic Rulemaking' report, calendar years 2018–2022 and can supplement information in the detailed report to the legislature regarding the rationale for selecting RC 6802 for rulemaking.

Table 1. Number of compensable WMSD claims in RC 6802-00 by OIICS nature and event codes from 2018–2022.

OIICS Nature	OIICS Event	Number of Claims	Percent
Injuries of muscles, joints, tendons, and ligaments such as sprains, strains, or tears	Overexertion (e.g., in lifting, pushing, pulling, throwing)	716	82.3%
	Repetitive motion	78	9.0%
	Bodily reaction from bending, crawling, twisting, prolonged sitting or standing, or other single incidents of free bodily motion	17	2.0%
	Rubbed, abraded, jarred by vibration	2	0.2%
General symptoms or other conditions not classified	Overexertion (e.g., in lifting, pushing, pulling, throwing)	33	3.8%
	Repetitive motion	8	0.9%
	Bodily reaction from bending, crawling, twisting, prolonged sitting or standing, or other single incidents of free bodily motion	1	0.1%
Carpal Tunnel Syndrome	Repetitive motion	6	0.7%
Dislocations	Overexertion (e.g., in lifting, pushing, pulling, throwing)	5	0.6%
	Repetitive motion	1	0.1%
Arthropathies	Repetitive motion	2	0.2%
Rheumatism in areas other than the back	Overexertion (e.g., in lifting, pushing, pulling, throwing)	1	0.1%
TOTAL		**870**	**100%**

OIICS is the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System.

Table 2. Number of compensable WMSD claims in RC 6802-00 by OIICS event and sources codes from 2018–2022.

OIICS Event	OIICS Source	Number of Claims	Percent
Overexertion (e.g., in lifting, pushing, pulling, throwing)	Containers (e.g. luggage, handbags)	618	71.0%
	Vehicles (e.g. forklift, tractor)	51	5.9%
	Tools, instruments, and equipment	29	3.3%
	Parts and Materials (e.g. fasteners, connectors)	20	2.3%
	Structures and surfaces (e.g. floors, walkways)	14	1.6%
	Bodily motion of injured worker	1	0.1%
	Other Sources	22	2.5%
Repetitive Motion	Bodily motion of injured worker	95	10.9%
Bodily reaction from bending, crawling, twisting, prolonged sitting or standing, or other single incidents of free bodily motion	Bodily motion of injured worker	16	1.8%
	Containers (e.g. luggage, handbags)	2	0.2%
Rubbed, abraded, jarred by vibration	Vehicles (e.g. forklift, tractor)	1	0.1%
	Other Sources	1	0.1%
TOTAL		**870**	**100%**

OIICS is the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System.

Table 3. Number of WMSD compensable claims in RC 6802-00 by OIICS source codes from 2018–2022.

OIICS Source	Number of Claims	Percent
Containers (e.g. luggage, handbags)	620	71.3%
Bodily motion of injured worker	112	12.9%
Vehicles (e.g. forklift, tractor)	52	6.0%
Tools, instruments, and equipment	29	3.3%
Parts and Materials (e.g. fasteners, connectors)	20	2.3%
Structures and surfaces (e.g. floors, walkways)	14	1.6%
Other sources	23	2.6%
TOTAL	**870**	**100%**

OIICS is the Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System.

Table 4. Summary of the size of employer accounts in RC 6802-00 from 2018–2022.

Employer Size* : FTE allocated to RC 6802-00				
	Number of accounts	**Percent of accounts**	**# WMSD claims in 6802-00**	**Percent of FTE in 6802-00**
<10 FTE/year	19	50%	0	1%
10 - <25 FTE/year	6	16%	1	2%
25 - <100 FTE/year	4	11%	9	6%
100+ FTE/year	9	24%	860	91%
TOTAL	**38**	**100%**	**870**	**100%**
Employer Size* : Total FTE of account with hours reported in 6802-00				
	Number of accounts	**Percent of accounts**	**# WMSD claims in 6802-00**	**Percent of FTE in 6802-00**
<10 FTE/year	13	34%	0	<1%
10 - <25 FTE/year	8	21%	1	2%
25 - <100 FTE/year	6	16%	4	3%
100+ FTE/year	11	29%	865	95%
TOTAL	**38**	**100%**	**870**	**100%**

*1 FTE= 2,000 hours. The average number of FTE per year over 2018–2022 was used here to assign employer size. Employer size based on FTE can vary slightly depending on whether FTE per year is calculated using the hours reported to only the RC 6802-00 or by calculating if the total FTE, regardless of RC, of a workers compensation account that has hours in RC 6802-00. Both are shown above.

Table 5. Enplanement information from the FAA from 2018–2022.

City	**Airfield/Heliport/Sea Plane Base Name**	**Number of Enplanements**	**Percent**
Seattle	Seattle-Tacoma International	98,077,138	87.9%
Spokane	Spokane International	8,222,116	7.4%
Pasco	Tri-Cities	1,761,885	1.6%
Bellingham	Bellingham International	1,283,705	1.2%
Everett	Seattle Paine Field International	886,731	0.8%
Pullman	Pullman/Moscow Regional	299,059	0.3%
Yakima	Yakima Air Terminal/Mcallister Field	252,998	0.2%
East Wenatchee	Pangborn Memorial	239,221	0.2%
Walla Walla	Walla Walla Regional	190,286	0.2%
Seattle	Boeing Field/King County International	103,406	0.1%

Friday Harbor	Friday Harbor	58,731	0.1%
--	All Other	58,944	0.2%

Enplanement data from the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) describe the amount of passengers that have utilized specific airfields, heliports, and sea plane bases in Washington State from 2018–2022.

Technical Notes:

Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System: Washington uses the **Bureau of Labor Statistics' (BLS) Occupational Injury and Illness Classification System** (OIICS, v. 1.01) to describe occupational injuries and illnesses. The BLS OIICS codes represent the national standard for describing occupational injuries and illnesses. BLS OIICS characterizes the nature of the injury, the injury event, the source of the injury and the body part injured. These OIICS codes are assigned to each workers compensation claim based on the information provided by the health care provider and worker on the workers compensation claim report of accident, where they describe the injury and injury event.

The **definition of a WMSD** relies on specific combinations of BLS OIICS event and nature codes. These combinations are detailed in Table 1, page 13 of the 2020 WMSD case definition report. The WMSD definition is also codified in state law – RCW 49.17.210 - *'WMSDs are defined as injuries or disorders of the muscles, nerves, tendons, joints, cartilage, and spinal discs associated with exposure to risk factors in the workplace. Musculoskeletal injuries and disorders include sprains, strains, tears, back pain, soreness, pain, carpal tunnel syndrome, musculoskeletal system or connective tissue diseases and disorders (i.e., the nature of the injury or illness) when the event or exposure leading to the injury or illness is a bodily reaction from bending, climbing, crawling, reaching, twisting, sitting, or standing; being rubbed or abraded by kneeling on a surface; being rubbed, abraded, or jarred by vibration; overexertion; or repetition.'*