

WSR 23-19-036
PROPOSED RULES
BOARD OF INDUSTRIAL
INSURANCE APPEALS

[Filed September 12, 2023, 10:48 a.m.]

Original Notice.

Proposal is exempt under RCW 34.05.310(4) or 34.05.330(1).

Title of Rule and Other Identifying Information: Chapter 263-12 WAC, Practice and procedure (before the board of industrial insurance appeals (BIIA)).

Hearing Location(s): On October 26, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., virtual or telephonic hearing only. Please use your computer or mobile app to join on Zoom <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/2427334324>; or call in (audio only) at 253-205-0468, Meeting ID 242 733 4324.

Date of Intended Adoption: October 31, 2023.

Submit Written Comments to: Brian Watkins, P.O. Box 42401, Olympia, WA 98501, email brian.watkins@biia.wa.gov, fax 855-586-5611, by October 18, 2023.

Assistance for Persons with Disabilities: Contact Neil Gorrell, phone 360-753-6823, fax 855-586-5611, TTY 800-833-6388, email neil.gorrell@biia.wa.gov, website for reasonable accommodation www.biia.wa.gov/Accommodation.html, by October 18, 2023.

Purpose of the Proposal and Its Anticipated Effects, Including Any Changes in Existing Rules: Proposal to amend WAC 263-12-015(4) to reflect the fact that BIIA meets every Tuesday at 9 a.m.

Proposal to amend WAC 263-12-01501 to conform to BIIA hearing ground rules (requires parties who file documents in which they represent that service was accomplished electronically to certify that they have an electronic service agreement with the opposing party). Note: No requirement to file an electronic service agreement with BIIA.

Proposal to amend WAC 263-12-115(10) to make it easier to conduct video and phone hearings. Removes in-person hearings as the default.

Proposal to amend WAC 263-12-117(2) to make it easier for parties to hold video and phone perpetuation depositions. Removes in person as the default.

Renumbering/housekeeping items.

Proposal to amend WAC 263-12-118 (2)(d) to reflect a statutory numbering change.

Proposal to amend WAC 263-12-059(4) to reflect a statutory numbering change.

Reasons Supporting Proposal: WAC 263-12-015(4) should be changed to reflect that BIIA meets regularly every Tuesday at 9 a.m. rather than only once a month as stated in the current rule.

WAC 263-12-01501 should be changed to conform to BIIA hearing ground rules, which clarify that parties who file documents in which they represent that service was accomplished electronically (rather than by mail or personal service) must certify that they have an electronic service agreement with the opposing party.

WAC 263-12-115(10) should be changed to reflect the reality that the vast majority of BIIA hearings now occur either by videoconference or telephone. The current rule, which came from a time when there were no video hearings, made it a burden for any individual to appear by phone. Experience during the COVID-19 pandemic's remote work period proved that effective due process can occur in BIIA administrative hearings when conducted remotely. Most participants prefer the convenience of remote hearings except when there is a reason to appear in

person. In terms of resources and quality of life, remote hearings promote the following:

- Saves costly time and fuel in traveling to BIIA proceedings;
- Allows participants, including BIIA judges and staff to participate from their offices or even their homes. This allows them to be more efficient, which can lead to increases of quality of life and work improvements;
- Once leases expire, it will potentially save BIIA resources if less facility costs are incurred;
- Reduce the likelihood of transmission of illness when participants are required to be in one conference room; and
- Reduce automobile travel and environmental impacts caused by such travel.

WAC 263-12-117(2) should be changed to reflect the reality that the majority of perpetuation depositions now occur either by videoconference or telephone. This change is urged for the same reasons as stated above for WAC 263-12-115(10).

WAC 263-12-118 (2)(d) should be changed only to reflect a statutory numbering change.

WAC 263-12-059(4) should be changed only to reflect a statutory numbering change.

Statutory Authority for Adoption: RCW 51.52.020.

Rule is not necessitated by federal law, federal or state court decision.

Name of Agency Personnel Responsible for Drafting, Implementation, and Enforcement: Brian Watkins, Olympia, 360-753-6823.

A school district fiscal impact statement is not required under RCW 28A.305.135.

A cost-benefit analysis is not required under RCW 34.05.328. These are procedural rules relating to procedures, practices, or requirements relating to agency rules. There are no significant legislative rules proposed.

This rule proposal, or portions of the proposal, is exempt from requirements of the Regulatory Fairness Act because the proposal:

Is exempt under RCW 19.85.025(3) as the rules adopt, amend, or repeal a procedure, practice, or requirement relating to agency hearings; or a filing or related process requirement for applying to an agency for a license or permit.

September 12, 2023
 Brian Watkins
 Chief Legal Officer

OTS-4921.1

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-15-042, filed 7/14/21, effective 8/14/21)

WAC 263-12-015 Administration and organization. (1) **Composition of the board.** The board is an independent agency of the state of Washington composed of three members appointed by the governor. One member is a representative of workers, one member is a representative of em-

ployers, and the chairperson, who must be an active member of the Washington State Bar, is the representative of the public.

(2) **Location of the board.** The headquarters, and principal office of the board, is located at 2430 Chandler Ct. S.W., P.O. Box 42401, in Olympia, Washington 98504-2401.

(3) **Customary office hours.** The customary office hours of the board shall be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

(4) **Formal board meetings.** The board shall meet in formal session at its headquarters in Olympia, Washington at 9 a.m. (~~on the first~~) every Tuesday (~~of each month~~), and at such other times and places as the board may deem necessary, subject to 24-hour notice as required by law.

(5) **Staff organization.**

(a) The board's headquarters in Olympia is staffed with executive, administrative and clerical personnel.

(b) The board has a staff of industrial appeals judges who travel throughout the state in the performance of their duties and who have their offices in Olympia and in other areas of the state as is deemed necessary for efficient and cost effective handling of agency business.

(c) The office of the chief legal officer of the board is located at the headquarters and principal office of the board.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 21-15-042, § 263-12-015, filed 7/14/21, effective 8/14/21; WSR 98-20-109, § 263-12-015, filed 10/7/98, effective 11/7/98; WSR 95-02-065, § 263-12-015, filed 1/3/95, effective 2/3/95; WSR 91-13-038, § 263-12-015, filed 6/14/91, effective 7/15/91. Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.104, 51.52.020 and chapters 51.48 and 42.17 RCW. WSR 86-03-021 (Order 20), § 263-12-015, filed 1/10/86. Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 84-02-024 (Order 15), § 263-12-015, filed 12/29/83. Statutory Authority: RCW 51.41.060(4) and 51.52.020. WSR 83-01-001 (Order 12), § 263-12-015, filed 12/2/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 82-03-031 (Order 11), § 263-12-015, filed 1/18/82; Order 10, § 263-12-015, filed 4/5/76; Order 7, § 263-12-015, filed 4/4/75; Order 4, § 263-12-015, filed 6/9/72; General Order 2, § 2, filed 6/12/63; General Order 1, § 2, filed 3/23/60; General Order 3, Subsection 4, filed 10/29/65. Formerly WAC 296-12-015.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-14-024, filed 6/24/22, effective 7/25/22)

WAC 263-12-01501 Communications and filing with the board. (1) **Where to file communications with the board.** Except as provided elsewhere in this section all written communications shall be filed with the board at its headquarters in Olympia, Washington. With written permission of the industrial appeals judge assigned to an appeal, depositions, witness confirmations, motions (other than motions for stay filed pursuant to RCW 51.52.050), briefs, stipulations, agreements, and general correspondence may be filed in the appropriate regional board facilities located in Tacoma, Spokane, or Seattle.

(2) **Methods of filing.** Unless otherwise provided by statute or these rules any written communication may be filed with the board by using one of four methods: Personally, by mail, by telephone facsim-

ile, or by electronic filing. Failure of a party to comply with the filing methods selected by the party for use under this section, or as otherwise set forth in these rules or statute for filing written communications may prevent consideration of a document.

(a) **Filing personally.** The filing of a written communication with the board personally is accomplished by delivering the written communication to an employee of the board at the board's headquarters in Olympia during customary office hours.

(b) **Filing by mail.** The filing of a written communication with the board is accomplished by mail when the written communication is deposited in the United States mail, properly addressed to the board's headquarters in Olympia and with postage prepaid. Where a statute or rule imposes a time limitation for filing the written communication, the party filing the same should include a certification demonstrating the date filing was perfected as provided under this subsection. Unless evidence is presented to the contrary, the date of the United States postal service postmark shall be presumed to be the date the written communication was mailed to the board.

(c) **Filing by telephone facsimile.**

(i) The filing of a written communication with the board by telephone facsimile is accomplished when a legible copy of the written communication is reproduced on the board's telephone facsimile equipment during the board's customary office hours. All facsimile communications must be filed with the board via fax numbers listed on the board's website.

(ii) The hours of staffing of the board's telephone facsimile equipment are the board's customary office hours. Documents sent by facsimile communication outside of the board's customary office hours will be deemed filed on the board's next business day.

(iii) Any written communication filed with the board by telephone facsimile should be preceded by a cover page identifying the party making the transmission, listing the address, telephone and telephone facsimile number of such party, referencing the appeal to which the written communication relates, and indicating the date of, and the total number of pages included in, such transmission. A separate transmission must be used for each appeal. Transmissions containing more than one docket number will be rejected and filing will not be accomplished, unless the multiple docket numbers have been previously consolidated by the board.

(iv) The party attempting to file a written communication by telephone facsimile bears the risk that the written communication will not be received or legibly printed on the board's telephone facsimile equipment due to error in the operation or failure of the equipment being utilized by either the party or the board.

(v) The board may require a party to file an original of any document previously filed by telephone facsimile.

(d) **Electronic filing.** Electronic filing is accomplished by using the electronic filing link on the board's website. Communication sent by email will not constitute or accomplish filing. Communication filed using the board's website outside of the board's customary office hours will be deemed filed on the board's next business day. A separate transmission must be used for each appeal. Transmissions containing more than one docket number will be rejected and filing will not be accomplished, unless the multiple docket numbers have been previously consolidated by the board.

(3) **Electronic filing of a notice of appeal.** A notice of appeal may be filed electronically when using the appropriate form for elec-

tronic filing of appeals as provided on the board's website. An electronic notice of appeal is filed when it is received by the board's designated computer during the board's customary office hours pursuant to WAC 263-12-015. Appeals received via the board's website outside of the board's customary office hours will be deemed filed on the board's next business day. The board will issue confirmation to the filing party that an electronic notice of appeal has been received. The board may reject a notice of appeal that fails to comply with the board's filing requirements. The board will notify the filing party of the rejection.

(4) **Electronic filing of application for approval of claim resolution settlement agreement.** An application for approval of claim resolution settlement agreement must be filed electronically using the form for electronic filing of applications for approval of claim resolution settlement agreement as provided on the board's website. An electronic application for approval of claim resolution settlement agreement is filed when received by the board's designated computer during the board's customary office hours pursuant to WAC 263-12-015. Applications received by the board via the board's website outside of the board's customary office hours will be deemed filed on the board's next business day. The board will issue confirmation to the filing party that an electronic application for approval of claim resolution settlement agreement has been received. An electronic copy of the signed agreement for claim resolution settlement agreement must be submitted as an attachment to the application for approval. The board will reject an application for approval of claim resolution settlement agreement that fails to comply with the board's filing requirements. The board will notify the filing party of the rejection.

(5) **Sending written communication.** All correspondence or written communication filed with the board pertaining to a particular case, before the entry of a proposed decision and order, should be sent to the attention of the industrial appeals judge assigned to the case. Interlocutory appeals should be sent to the attention of the chief industrial appeals judge. In all other instances, written communications shall be directed to the chief legal officer of the board.

(6) **Form requirements.** Any written communications with the board concerning an appeal should reference the docket number assigned by the board to the appeal, if known. Copies of any written communications filed with the board shall be served on all other parties or their representatives of record, and the original shall demonstrate compliance with the requirement to serve all parties. Where service is accomplished electronically (for example, facsimile or email), the proof of service must include language certifying that an electronic agreement exists (for example, "per electronic service agreement"). All written communications with the board shall be on paper 8 1/2" x 11" in size.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 22-14-024, § 263-12-01501, filed 6/24/22, effective 7/25/22; WSR 21-15-042, § 263-12-01501, filed 7/14/21, effective 8/14/21; WSR 18-24-123, § 263-12-01501, filed 12/5/18, effective 1/5/19; WSR 17-24-121, § 263-12-01501, filed 12/6/17, effective 1/6/18; WSR 16-24-054, § 263-12-01501, filed 12/2/16, effective 1/2/17; WSR 14-24-105, § 263-12-01501, filed 12/2/14, effective 1/2/15; WSR 11-23-154, § 263-12-01501, filed 11/22/11, effective 12/23/11; WSR 10-14-061, § 263-12-01501, filed 6/30/10, effective 7/31/10; WSR 06-12-003, § 263-12-01501, filed 5/25/06, effective 6/25/06; WSR 04-22-047, § 263-12-01501, filed

10/28/04, effective 11/28/04; WSR 04-16-097, § 263-12-01501, filed 8/3/04, effective 9/3/04; WSR 98-20-109, § 263-12-01501, filed 10/7/98, effective 11/7/98; WSR 91-13-038, § 263-12-01501, filed 6/14/91, effective 7/15/91.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-19-009, filed 9/9/22, effective 10/10/22)

WAC 263-12-059 Appeals arising under the safety and health provisions of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act; contents of notice of appeal; notice to affected employees; request for stay of abatement pending appeal. (1) **Contents of notice of appeal in WISHA appeals.** In all appeals arising under the safety and health provisions of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act, the notice of appeal should contain where applicable:

(a) The name, mailing address, telephone number, and email address of the appealing party and of the party's representative, if any.

(b) A statement identifying the citation, penalty assessment, or notice of abatement date appealed from. This requirement may be satisfied by attaching a copy of the citation, penalty assessment, or notice of abatement date.

(c) The name and address of the representative of any labor union representing any employee who was or who may be affected by the alleged safety violation(s). If the employer has no affected employees who are members of a union, the employer shall affirmatively certify that no union employees are affected by the appeal.

(d) The reason why the appealing party considers such order or decision, to be unjust or unlawful.

(e) A statement of facts in full detail in support of each stated reason.

(f) The specific nature and extent of the relief sought.

(g) The place, most convenient to the appealing party and that party's witnesses, where board proceedings are requested to be held.

(h) A statement that the person signing the notice of appeal has read it and that to the best of his or her knowledge the contents are true.

(i) The signature of the appealing party or the party's representative.

In all appeals where a stay of abatement of alleged violation(s) pending appeal is requested, the notice of appeal must comply with additional requirements set forth in subsection (3) of this section.

(2) **Employer duty to notify affected employees.**

(a) In the case of any appeal by an employer concerning an alleged violation of the safety and health provisions of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act, the employer shall give notice of such appeal to its employees by either:

(i) Providing copies of the appeal and applicable division of safety and health citation and notice or corrective notice of redetermination to each employee member of the employer's safety committee; or

(ii) By posting a copy of the appeal and applicable division of safety and health citation and notice or corrective notice of redetermination in a conspicuous place at the work site at which the alleged

violation occurred. Any posting shall remain during the pendency of the appeal.

(b) The employer shall also provide notice advising interested employees that an appeal has been filed with the board and that any employee or group of employees who wish to participate in the appeal may do so by contacting the board. Such notice shall include the address of the board.

(c) The employer shall file with the board a certificate of proof of compliance with this section within 14 days of issuance of the board's notice of filing of appeal. A certification form is provided on the board's website.

(d) If notice as required by this subsection is not possible or has not been satisfied, the employer shall notify the board in writing of the reasons for noncompliance or impossibility. If the board, or its designee, determines that it is not possible for the employer to provide the required notice to employees, it will prescribe the terms and conditions of a substitute procedure reasonably calculated to give notice to affected employees, or may waive the affected-employee-notice requirement. If the employer requests a stay of abatement pending appeal, and desires to assert the claim of impossibility of notice to employees, the employer must include its claim of impossibility, together with facts showing impossibility, in its notice of appeal.

(3) Request for a stay of abatement in WISHA appeals.

(a) **How made.** Any request for stay of abatement pending appeal must be included in the notice of appeal. An employer may request a stay of abatement pending appeal by placing "STAY OF ABATEMENT REQUESTED" prominently on the first page of the notice of appeal in bold print. The board will issue a final decision on such requests within 45 working days of the board's notice of filing of appeal.

(b) Union information.

(i) **Appeals from corrective notice of redetermination.** In appeals where the employer has requested a stay of abatement of the violation(s) alleged in the corrective notice of redetermination, the employer shall include in the notice of appeal the names and addresses of any unions representing workers for the employer as required by subsection (1) of this section. If the employer has no affected employees who are members of a union, the employer shall affirmatively inform the board that no union employees are affected by the appeal.

(ii) **Appeals from citation and notice.** Where an employer files an appeal from a citation and notice and the department of labor and industries chooses to forward the appeal to the board to be treated as an appeal to the board, the employer shall provide the board with the names and addresses of any unions representing workers for the employer as required by subsection (1) of this section. If the employer has no affected employees who are members of a union, the employer shall inform the board that no union employees are affected by the appeal. The employer shall provide this information to the board within 14 days of the date of the board's notice of filing of appeal.

(c) Supporting and opposing documents.

(i) **Supporting documents.** In appeals where the employer has requested a stay of abatement pursuant to RCW 49.17.140, the employer shall, within 14 calendar days of the date of the board's notice of filing of appeal, file with the board supporting declarations, affidavits, and documents it wishes the board to consider in deciding the request. The employer must also simultaneously provide supporting documents to the department and any affected employees' safety committee or union representative. Supporting affidavits or declarations

shall be made on personal knowledge, shall set forth such facts as would be admissible in evidence, and shall show affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify to the matters stated therein. Copies of individual relevant supporting documents shall be specifically referred to in the affidavit and shall be attached to the affidavit. Such supporting documents shall not be excluded from consideration based on a hearsay objection. All such affidavits and supporting documents shall be limited to evidence addressing:

(A) Whether there is good cause to stay the abatement of the violation(s) set forth in the citation and notice or corrective notice of redetermination; and

(B) Whether it is more likely than not that a stay of the abatement of the violation(s) would result in death or serious physical harm to a worker.

(ii) **Opposing documents.** Within 28 calendar days of the date of the board's notice of filing of appeal, the department of labor and industries and any affected employees shall file with the board any declarations, affidavits, and documents they wish the board to consider in deciding the request. The department must also simultaneously serve these opposing documents on the employer and any affected employees' safety committee or representative. The employees must also simultaneously serve the opposing documents on the employer and the department. Supporting and opposing affidavits and declarations shall be made on personal knowledge, shall set forth such facts as would be admissible in evidence, and shall show affirmatively that the affiant is competent to testify to the matters stated therein. Copies of individual relevant supporting documents shall be specifically referred to in the affidavit and shall be attached to the affidavit. Such supporting documents shall not be excluded from consideration based on a hearsay objection. All such affidavits and supporting documents shall be limited to evidence addressing:

(A) Whether there is good cause to stay the abatement of the violation(s) set forth in the citation and notice or corrective notice of redetermination; and

(B) Whether it is more likely than not that a stay of the abatement of the violation(s) would result in death or serious physical harm to a worker.

(4) **Denial of request to stay abatement.** If any of the following procedural or substantive grounds are present, the board will deny the request for a stay of abatement pending appeal:

(a) The request for stay of abatement is not contained in the employer's notice of appeal as required by RCW 49.17.140 (~~((4))~~) (5)(a).

(b) The employer fails to include union information as required in subsection (3)(b) of this section.

(c) The employer fails to timely file a certification that its employees have been notified about the appeal and the request for stay of abatement as required in subsection (2) of this section.

(d) The employer fails to file supporting documents within 14 calendar days of the issuance of the board's notice of filing of appeal as required in subsection (3)(c)(i) of this section.

(e) The request is moot.

(f) The only violation alleged by the department of labor and industries is a general violation.

(g) The employer fails to show good cause for a stay of abatement in its supporting documents.

(h) The preliminary evidence shows it is more likely than not that a stay would result in death or serious physical harm to a worker.

(5) **Expedited nature of requests to stay abatement/requests to enlarge time.** Requests to stay abatement pending appeal must be decided in accordance with a strict statutory timeline. Oral argument will not be permitted. The board will grant requests to enlarge time to file documents or certifications only after receipt of a written motion with supporting affidavit filed with the board and all other parties before the filing deadline and only upon a showing of good cause.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 22-19-009, § 263-12-059, filed 9/9/22, effective 10/10/22; WSR 17-24-121, § 263-12-059, filed 12/6/17, effective 1/6/18; WSR 16-24-054, § 263-12-059, filed 12/2/16, effective 1/2/17; WSR 14-24-105, § 263-12-059, filed 12/2/14, effective 1/2/15; WSR 11-20-003, § 263-12-059, filed 9/21/11, effective 10/22/11; WSR 03-02-038, § 263-12-059, filed 12/24/02, effective 1/24/03; WSR 01-09-032, § 263-12-059, filed 4/11/01, effective 5/12/01.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-14-024, filed 6/24/22, effective 7/25/22)

WAC 263-12-115 Procedures at hearings. (1) **Industrial appeals judge.** All hearings shall be conducted by an industrial appeals judge who shall conduct the hearing in an orderly manner and rule on all procedural matters, objections and motions.

(2) **Order of presentation of evidence.**

(a) In any appeal under either the Industrial Insurance Act, the Worker and Community Right to Know Act, or the Crime Victims Compensation Act, the appealing party shall initially introduce all evidence in his or her case-in-chief except that in an appeal from an order of the department that alleges fraud or willful misrepresentation the department or self-insured employer shall initially introduce all evidence in its case-in-chief.

(b) In all appeals subject to the provisions of the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act, the department shall initially introduce all evidence in its case-in-chief.

(c) After the party with the initial burden has presented his or her case-in-chief, the other parties may then introduce the evidence necessary to their cases-in-chief. In the event there is more than one other party, they may either present their cases-in-chief successively or may join in their presentation. Rebuttal evidence shall be received in the same order. Witnesses may be called out of turn in contravention of this rule only by agreement of all parties.

(3) **Objections and motions to strike.** Objections to the admission or exclusion of evidence shall be in short form, stating the legal grounds of objection relied upon. Extended argument or debate shall not be permitted.

(4) **Rulings.** The industrial appeals judge on objection or on his or her own motion shall exclude all irrelevant or unduly repetitious evidence and statements that are inadmissible pursuant to WAC 263-12-095(5). All rulings upon objections to the admissibility of evidence shall be made in accordance with rules of evidence applicable in the superior courts of this state.

(5) **Interlocutory appeals to the board - Confidentiality of trade secrets.** A direct appeal to the board shall be allowed as a matter of right from any ruling of an industrial appeals judge adverse to the employer concerning the confidentiality of trade secrets in appeals under the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act.

(6) **Interlocutory review by a chief industrial appeals judge.**

(a) Except as provided in subsection (5) of this section interlocutory rulings of the industrial appeals judge are not subject to direct review by the board. A party to an appeal or a witness who has made a motion to quash a subpoena to appear at board related proceedings, may within five working days of receiving an adverse ruling from an industrial appeals judge request a review by a chief industrial appeals judge or his or her designee. Such request for review shall be in writing and shall be accompanied by an affidavit in support of the request and setting forth the grounds for the request, including the reasons for the necessity of an immediate review during the course of conference or hearing proceedings. Within 10 working days of receipt of the written request, the chief industrial appeals judge, or designee, may decline to review the ruling based upon the written request and supporting affidavit; or, after such review as he or she deems appropriate, may either affirm or reverse the ruling, or refer the matter to the industrial appeals judge for further consideration.

(b) Failure to request review of an interlocutory ruling shall not constitute a waiver of the party's objection, nor shall an unfavorable response to the request preclude a party from subsequently renewing the objection whenever appropriate.

(c) No conference or hearing shall be interrupted for the purpose of filing a request for review of the industrial appeals judge's rulings; nor shall any scheduled proceedings be canceled pending a response to the request.

(7) **Recessed hearings.** Where, for good cause, all parties to an appeal are unable to present all their evidence at the time and place originally set for hearing, the industrial appeals judge may recess the hearing to the same or a different location so as to insure that all parties have reasonable opportunity to present their respective cases. No written "notice of hearing" shall be required as to any recessed hearing.

(8) **Failure to present evidence when due.**

(a) If any party is due to present certain evidence at a hearing or recessed hearing and, for any reason on its part, fails to appear and present such evidence, the industrial appeals judge may conclude the hearing and issue a proposed decision and order on the record, or recess or set over the proceedings for further hearing for the receipt of such evidence.

(b) In cases concerning Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act citations, a failure to appear by the person and/or party who filed the appeal is deemed to be an admission of the validity of any citation, abatement period, or penalty issued or proposed, and constitutes a waiver of all rights except the right to receive a copy of the decision.

(c) In cases concerning willful misrepresentation, the industrial appeals judge may proceed with the hearing, receive evidence, and issue a proposed decision and order without requirement of further notice to the appealing party who fails to appear.

(9) **Offers of proof in colloquy.** When an objection to a question is sustained an offer of proof in question and answer form shall be

permitted unless the question is clearly objectionable on any theory of the case.

(10) (~~(Telephone and video testimony. At hearings, the parties may present the testimony of witnesses by telephone or video if agreed to by all parties and approved by the industrial appeals judge. For good cause the industrial appeals judge may authorize telephone or video testimony over the objection of a party after weighing))~~ **Hearing format.** Hearings generally occur by contemporaneous transmission from different locations (for example, video or telephone). Participants may request to appear in person. If the parties disagree on the format for the hearing, the industrial appeals judge will determine the format for the hearing, and may consider the following nonexclusive factors:

- The need to weigh a witness's demeanor or credibility.
- Difficulty in handling documents and exhibits.
- The number of parties participating in the hearing.
- Whether any of the testimony will need to be (~~translated~~) interpreted.
- Ability of the witness to travel.
- Feasibility of taking a perpetuation deposition.
- Availability of quality telecommunications equipment and service.

(~~(When telephone or video testimony is permitted,)~~) The industrial appeals judge presiding at the hearing will swear in the witness testifying by telephone or video as if the witness appeared live at the hearing. For rules relating to telephone or video deposition testimony, see WAC 263-12-117.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 22-14-024, § 263-12-115, filed 6/24/22, effective 7/25/22; WSR 17-24-121, § 263-12-115, filed 12/6/17, effective 1/6/18; WSR 14-24-105, § 263-12-115, filed 12/2/14, effective 1/2/15; WSR 08-01-081, § 263-12-115, filed 12/17/07, effective 1/17/08; WSR 03-02-038, § 263-12-115, filed 12/24/02, effective 1/24/03; WSR 00-23-021, § 263-12-115, filed 11/7/00, effective 12/8/00; WSR 91-13-038, § 263-12-115, filed 6/14/91, effective 7/15/91; WSR 84-08-036 (Order 17), § 263-12-115, filed 3/30/84. Statutory Authority: RCW 51.41.060(4) and 51.52.020. WSR 83-01-001 (Order 12), § 263-12-115, filed 12/2/82. Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 82-03-031 (Order 11), § 263-12-115, filed 1/18/82; Order 9, § 263-12-115, filed 8/8/75; Order 7, § 263-12-115, filed 4/4/75; Order 4, § 263-12-115, filed 6/9/72; General Order 3, Rule 7.5, filed 10/29/65; General Order 2, Rule 7.4, filed 6/12/63; General Order 1, Rule 5.10, filed 3/23/60. Formerly WAC 296-12-115.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 22-14-024, filed 6/24/22, effective 7/25/22)

WAC 263-12-117 Perpetuation depositions. (1) **Evidence by deposition.** The industrial appeals judge may permit or require the perpetuation of testimony by deposition, subject to the applicable provisions of WAC 263-12-115. Such ruling may only be given after the industrial appeals judge gives due consideration to:

- (a) The complexity of the issues raised by the appeal;
- (b) The desirability of having the witness's testimony presented at a hearing;

(c) The costs incurred by the parties in complying with the ruling; and

(d) The fairness to the parties in complying with the ruling.

(2) ~~((Telephone and video depositions))~~ **Deposition format:** When testimony is taken by perpetuation deposition, ~~((it may be taken by))~~ a party or witness, representative, or other participant may participate, and testimony may be presented, in person or by contemporaneous transmission from a different location (telephone or video) if all parties agree. ((For good cause the industrial appeals judge may permit the parties to take the testimony of a witness by telephone or video deposition over the objection of a party after weighing)) If there is no agreement, the industrial appeals judge may consider the following nonexclusive factors when determining the format by which participation occurs:

- The need of a party to observe a witness's demeanor.
- Difficulty in handling documents and exhibits.
- The number of parties participating in the deposition.
- Whether any of the testimony will need to be ~~((translated))~~ interpreted.
- Ability of the witness to travel.
- Availability of quality telecommunications equipment and service.

If a perpetuation deposition is taken by telephone or video, the court reporter transcribing the deposition is authorized to swear in the deponent, regardless of the deponent's location within or outside the state of Washington.

(3) The industrial appeals judge may require that depositions be taken and published within prescribed time limits. The time limits may be extended by the industrial appeals judge for good cause. Each party shall bear its own costs except when the industrial appeals judge allocates costs to parties or their representatives. If a party takes a deposition under this section, but elects not to file the deposition as evidence in the appeal, the party shall provide written notice to the assigned industrial appeals judge and all other parties prior to the deposition filing deadline.

(4) The party filing a deposition must submit the stenographically reported and transcribed deposition, certification, and exhibits in an electronic format in accordance with procedures established by the board. The following requirements apply to the submission of depositions:

- (a) Video depositions will not be considered as part of the record on appeal;
- (b) The electronic deposition must be submitted in searchable pdf format;
- (c) Exhibits to the deposition must be filed electronically as a single attachment separate from the deposition transcript and certification;
- (d) Any media exhibit (audio or video) must meet the requirements set forth in WAC 263-12-116; and
- (e) If the deposition is not transcribed in a reproducible format or properly submitted it may be excluded from the record.

(5) **Procedure at deposition.** Unless the parties stipulate or the industrial appeals judge determines otherwise all depositions permitted to be taken for the perpetuation of testimony shall be taken subject to the following conditions:

(a) That all motions and objections, whether to form or otherwise, shall be raised at the time of the deposition and if not raised at such time shall be deemed waived.

(b) That all exhibits shall be marked and identified at the time of the deposition and, if offered into evidence, appended to the deposition.

(c) That the deposition be published without necessity of further conference or hearing at the time it is received by the industrial appeals judge.

(d) That all motions, including offers to admit exhibits and objections raised at the time of the deposition, shall be ruled upon by the industrial appeals judge in the proposed decision and order.

(e) That the deposition may be appended to the record as part of the transcript, and not as an exhibit, without the necessity of being retyped into the record.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 22-14-024, § 263-12-117, filed 6/24/22, effective 7/25/22; WSR 21-15-042, § 263-12-117, filed 7/14/21, effective 8/14/21; WSR 17-24-121, § 263-12-117, filed 12/6/17, effective 1/6/18; WSR 16-24-054, § 263-12-117, filed 12/2/16, effective 1/2/17; WSR 14-24-105, § 263-12-117, filed 12/2/14, effective 1/2/15; WSR 10-14-061, § 263-12-117, filed 6/30/10, effective 7/31/10; WSR 04-16-009, § 263-12-117, filed 7/22/04, effective 8/22/04; WSR 03-02-038, § 263-12-117, filed 12/24/02, effective 1/24/03.]

AMENDATORY SECTION (Amending WSR 21-15-042, filed 7/14/21, effective 8/14/21)

WAC 263-12-118 Motions. (1) **Definition.** A party's written or oral request for the board to take action on a pending appeal is a "motion." Motions must be in writing unless made during a hearing before an industrial appeals judge. The board recognizes that there are two basic categories of motions:

(a) **Nondispositive motions.** Nondispositive motions include procedural motions, such as motions for a continuance, an extension of time, or to reopen the record; and discovery motions, such as motions *in limine* or motions to compel or request sanctions.

(b) **Dispositive motions.** Dispositive motions ask for a decision on one or more of the issues in an appeal or to dismiss the appeal. Examples of dispositive motions are motions to dismiss or motions for summary judgment. See WAC 263-12-11801.

(2) **Motions made to the chief legal officer.** The procedural rules in subsections (3) through (6) of this section do not apply to motions made to the chief legal officer for consideration by the three-member board:

(a) Motions for stay of the order on appeal under RCW 51.52.050 (2) (b). (See WAC 263-12-11802.)

(b) Motions to reconsider or vacate final board orders. (See WAC 263-12-156.)

(c) Motions to set reasonable attorneys' fees under RCW 51.52.120. (See WAC 263-12-165.)

(d) Requests for a stay of abatement pending appeal under RCW 49.17.140 ((+4)) (5) (a) in appeals filed under the Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act. (See WAC 263-12-059.)

(3) **Written motions.** A written motion must identify the action requested on the first page in bold print. See WAC 263-12-01501 for other information about communication and filing.

(4) **Oral motions.** Any party may bring an oral motion during a hearing, unless prohibited from doing so at the industrial appeals judge's discretion. The industrial appeals judge may provide an opportunity for other parties to respond to any oral motion. The industrial appeals judge may require that an oral motion also be submitted in writing and may provide an opportunity for written response.

(5) **Responses to nondispositive motions.** Any party who opposes a written nondispositive motion may file a written response within five business days after the motion is served, or may make an oral or written response at such other time as the industrial appeals judge may set.

(6) **Argument.**

(a) **Nondispositive motions.** All nondispositive motions will be ruled on without oral argument, unless it is requested by the parties and approved by the industrial appeals judge, or at the discretion of the industrial appeals judge. Any party may request oral argument by placing "ORAL ARGUMENT REQUESTED" prominently on the first page of the motion or responsive pleading. The time and date for oral argument shall be scheduled in advance by contacting the judicial assistant for the assigned industrial appeals judge. Written notice shall be mailed not less than seven calendar days prior to the date set for oral argument, unless waived by the parties.

(b) **Dispositive motions.** See WAC 263-12-11801.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 51.52.020. WSR 21-15-042, § 263-12-118, filed 7/14/21, effective 8/14/21; WSR 16-24-054, § 263-12-118, filed 12/2/16, effective 1/2/17; WSR 14-24-105, § 263-12-118, filed 12/2/14, effective 1/2/15.]