

APPEAL NO. 022107
FILED OCTOBER 3, 2002

This appeal arises pursuant to the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, TEX. LAB. CODE ANN. § 401.001 *et seq.* (1989 Act). A contested case hearing was held on July 18, 2002. The hearing officer determined that the compensable injury sustained by the appellant (claimant) on _____, does not extend to and include the cervical spine. The claimant contends that this determination is against the great weight and preponderance of the evidence. The respondent (carrier) urges affirmance.

DECISION

We affirm.

Extent of injury is a factual question for the hearing officer to resolve. Section 410.165(a) provides that the contested case hearing officer, as finder of fact, is the sole judge of the relevance and materiality of the evidence as well as of the weight and credibility that is to be given the evidence. An appeals-level body is not a fact finder, and does not normally pass upon the credibility of witnesses or substitute its own judgment for that of the trier of fact, even if the evidence would support a different result. National Union Fire Insurance Company of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania v. Soto, 819 S.W.2d 619, 620 (Tex. App.-El Paso 1991, writ denied). When reviewing a hearing officer's decision for factual sufficiency of the evidence we should reverse such decision only if it is so contrary to the overwhelming weight of the evidence as to be clearly wrong and unjust and we do not find it to be so in this case. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175, 176 (Tex. 1986).

We affirm the hearing officer's decision and order.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **LIBERTY MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**CT CORPORATION
350 NORTH ST. PAUL STREET, SUITE 2900
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201.**

Judy L. S. Barnes
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

Michael B. McShane
Appeals Judge

Robert W. Potts
Appeals Judge