

APPEAL NO. 023105
FILED JANUARY 16, 2003

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 November 12, 2002. The hearing officer resolved the disputed issues by deciding that the compensable injury of _____, extends to include a small disc defect at L5-S1 and that the respondent (claimant) has had disability from July 29, 2002, through the date of the hearing. The appellant (self-insured) appealed, arguing that there was insufficient evidence to support the determinations of the hearing officer. The appeal file did not contain a response from the claimant.

DECISION

Affirmed.

Extent of injury and disability are factual questions for the fact finder to resolve. The hearing officer, as finder of fact, is the sole judge of the relevance and materiality of the evidence as well as the weight and credibility that is to be given to the evidence. Section 410.165(a). It is for the hearing officer to resolve the inconsistencies and conflicts in the evidence and to decide what facts the evidence has established. Garza v. Commercial Insurance Company of Newark, New Jersey, 508 S.W.2d 701 (Tex. Civ. App.-Amarillo 1974, no writ). There is sufficient evidence to support the hearing officer's extent-of-injury and disability determinations. Nothing in our review of the record reveals that the challenged determinations are so against the great weight and preponderance of the evidence as to be clearly wrong or manifestly unjust. Accordingly, no sound basis exists for us to disturb the extent-of-injury and disability determinations on appeal. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175 (Tex. 1986).

The hearing officer's decision and order are affirmed.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **(a certified self-insured)** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY
CINDY HARRIS
800 BRAZOS
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.**

Elaine M. Chaney
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

Gary L. Kilgore
Appeals Judge

Terri Kay Oliver
Appeals Judge