

APPEAL NO. 030680  
FILED APRIL 30, 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 February 21, 2003. The hearing officer resolved the disputed issue by deciding that the appellant's (claimant) compensable injury of \_\_\_\_\_, does not extend to and include an injury to the cervical spine. The claimant appealed the hearing officer's determination based on sufficiency of the evidence grounds. The respondent (carrier) responded, urging affirmance.

DECISION

Affirmed.

Extent of injury is a factual question for the hearing officer 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). In this instance, the hearing officer was not persuaded that the claimant sustained his burden of proving the causal connection between his compensable injury and the injury to his cervical spine. The hearing officer was acting within his province as the fact finder in making this determination. Nothing in our review of the record reveals that the hearing officer's extent-of-injury determination is 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 that determination on appeal. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175, 176 (Tex. 1986).

We affirm the decision and order of the hearing officer.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **TRAVELERS INDEMNITY COMPANY OF CONNECTICUT** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**CORPORATION SERVICE COMPANY  
350 NORTH ST. PAUL STREET  
DALLAS, TEXAS 75201.**

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Gary L. Kilgore  
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

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Elaine M. Chaney  
Appeals Judge

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Michael B. McShane  
Appeals Panel  
Manager/Judge