

APPEAL NO. 031412  
FILED JULY 9, 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 May 8, 2003. The hearing officer determined that the appellant (claimant) is not entitled to supplemental income benefits (SIBs) for the first and second quarters. The claimant appeals on sufficiency of the evidence grounds. The respondent (carrier) responds, urging affirmance.

DECISION

Affirmed.

The parties stipulated that the claimant sustained a compensable injury on \_\_\_\_\_, and that the qualifying periods for the SIBs quarters in dispute began on October 14, 2002, and ended on April 13, 2003.

Eligibility criteria for SIBs entitlement are set forth in Section 408.142(a) and Tex. W.C. Comm'n, 28 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 130.102 (Rule 130.102). The SIBs criterion in issue is whether the claimant made a good faith effort to obtain employment commensurate with his ability to work during the qualifying periods for the first and second quarters. The claimant asserted that he had no ability to work due to his compensable injury. The hearing officer found that the claimant did not meet the requirements of Rule 130.102(d)(4), i.e., that the claimant had some ability to work, that the claimant failed to submit a medical narrative showing how his compensable injury caused an inability to work during the qualifying periods for the first and second quarters, that a functional capacity evaluation dated November 29, 2000, indicated that the claimant could accomplish light to medium work, and that the claimant's treating doctor issued a Work Status Report (TWCC-73) releasing the claimant to work with restrictions as of October 17, 2002, and determined that the claimant did not make a good faith effort to obtain employment commensurate with his ability to work. Whether a claimant satisfied the good faith requirement for SIBs entitlement is a factual question for the hearing officer to resolve. Texas Workers' Compensation Commission Appeal No. 94150, decided March 22, 1994. The hearing officer is the sole judge of the relevance, materiality, weight, and credibility of the evidence presented at the hearing, Section 410.165(a), and as the trier of fact, resolves the conflicts and inconsistencies in the evidence including the medical evidence (Texas Employers Insurance Association v. Campos, 666 S.W.2d 286 (Tex. App.-Houston [14th Dist.] 1984, no writ)). We conclude that the hearing officer's decision is supported by sufficient evidence and that it is not so against the great weight and preponderance of the evidence as to be clearly wrong and unjust. Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175 (Tex. 1986).

The decision and order of the hearing officer are affirmed.

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

**GARY SUDOL**  
**9330 LBJ FREEWAY, SUITE 1200**  
**DALLAS, TEXAS 75243.**

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Gary L. Kilgore  
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

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Chris Cowan  
Appeals Judge

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Margaret L. Turner  
Appeals Judge