

APPEAL NO. 031750
FILED AUGUST 21, 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 June 3, 2003. With respect to the issues before her, the hearing officer determined that the appellant (claimant) did not sustain a compensable injury; that the date of the alleged injury is _____; and that the claimant did not have disability. In his appeal, the claimant essentially argues that the hearing officer's injury and disability determinations are against the great weight of the evidence. The appeal file does not contain a response to the claimant's appeal, from the respondent (self-insured). There was no appeal of the hearing officer's determination that the date of the alleged injury is _____.

DECISION

Affirmed.

The hearing officer did not err in determining that the claimant did not sustain a compensable injury on _____. The claimant had the burden of proof on the injury issue and it presented a question of fact for the hearing officer to resolve. Johnson v. Employers Reinsurance Corp., 351 S.W.2d 936 (Tex. Civ. App.-Texarkana 1961, no writ). The hearing officer is the sole judge of the relevance and materiality of the evidence and of its weight and credibility. Section 410.165(a). The hearing officer resolves the conflicts and inconsistencies in the evidence and decides what facts the evidence has established. Texas Employers Ins. Ass'n v. Campos, 666 S.W.2d 286 (Tex. App.-Houston [14th Dist.] 1984, no writ). When reviewing a hearing officer's decision we will reverse such decision only if it is so contrary to the overwhelming weight of the evidence as to be clearly wrong and manifestly unjust. Pool v. Ford Motor Co., 715 S.W.2d 629 (Tex. 1986); Cain v. Bain, 709 S.W.2d 175 (Tex. 1986).

In this instance, there was conflicting evidence on the injury issue. The hearing officer simply was not persuaded that the claimant sustained his burden of proving that he cut his right index finger at work as he claimed. The hearing officer was acting within her province as the fact finder in so finding. Nothing in our review of the record demonstrates that the challenged determination is so against the great weight of the evidence as to be clearly wrong or manifestly unjust; therefore, no sound basis exists for us to reverse the injury determination on appeal. Pool, *supra*; Cain, *supra*.

The 1989 Act requires the existence of a compensable injury as a prerequisite to a finding of disability. Section 401.011(16). Because we have affirmed the hearing officer's determinations that the claimant did not sustain a compensable injury, we likewise affirm the determination that the claimant did not have disability.

The hearing officer's decision and order are affirmed.

The true corporate name of the insurance carrier is **self-insured governmental entity** and the name and address of its registered agent for service of process is

**CR
(ADDRESS)
(CITY), TEXAS (ZIP CODE).**

Elaine M. Chaney
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

Judy L. S. Barnes
Appeals Judge

Margaret L. Turner
Appeals Judge