

APPEAL NO. 032548  
FILED NOVEMBER 17, 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 August 25, 2003. The hearing officer resolved the disputed issues by deciding that the appellant (claimant) is not entitled to supplemental income benefits (SIBs) for the second and third quarters. The claimant appeals, contending that the overwhelming weight of the evidence proves that he is entitled to SIBs for the second and third quarters. The respondent (carrier) asserts that sufficient evidence supports the hearing officer's decision.

DECISION

Affirmed.

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 second and third quarters. The claimant contends that he had no ability to work during the relevant qualifying periods. It is undisputed that the claimant did not work or look for work during the relevant qualifying periods. Rule 130.102(d)(4) provides that an injured employee has made a good faith effort to obtain employment commensurate with the employee's ability to work if the employee has been unable to perform any type of work in any capacity, has provided a narrative report from a doctor which specifically explains how the injury causes a total inability to work, and no other records show that the injured employee is able to return to work. Rule 130.102(e) provides in part that, except as provided in subsection (d)(1), (2), (3), and (4) of Rule 130.102, an injured employee who has not returned to work and is able to return to work in any capacity shall look for employment commensurate with his or her ability to work every week of the qualifying period and document his or her job search efforts.

Conflicting evidence was presented with regard to the claimant's ability to work. The hearing officer found that the claimant had the ability to perform some work during the qualifying periods for the second and third quarters and that the claimant had not attempted in good faith to obtain employment commensurate with his ability to work during those qualifying periods. The hearing officer concluded that the claimant is not entitled to SIBs for the second and third quarters. The hearing officer is the sole judge of the weight and credibility of the evidence. As the finder of fact, the hearing officer resolves the conflicts in the evidence and determines what facts have been established. 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).

We affirm the hearing officer's decision and order.

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

**MR. RUSSELL R. OLIVER, PRESIDENT  
221 WEST 6TH STREET  
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78701.**

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Robert W. Potts  
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

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Gary L. Kilgore  
Appeals Judge

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Thomas A. Knapp  
Appeals Judge