

APPEAL NO. 032587
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 September 11, 2003. The hearing officer determined that the respondent (claimant) is entitled to supplemental income benefits (SIBs) for the third and fourth compensable quarters. The appellant (carrier) appeals these determinations. The appeal file contains no response from the claimant.

DECISION

Affirmed.

Section 408.142 provides that an employee continues to be entitled to SIBs after the first compensable quarter if the employee: (1) has not returned to work or has earned less than 80% of the employee's average weekly wage as a direct result of the impairment; and (2) has in good faith sought employment commensurate with his or her ability to work. At issue in this case is whether the claimant satisfied the good faith requirement for SIBs entitlement. Rule 130.102(e), applicable in this case, provides that 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. The rule goes on to list information to be considered in determining whether the injured employee has made a good faith effort, including, among other things, the number of jobs applied for, applications which document the job search, the amount of time spent in attempting to find employment, and any job search plan. Whether the claimant's job search efforts were made in good faith was essentially a factual question for the hearing officer to resolve. The hearing officer is the sole judge of the weight and credibility of the evidence (Section 410.165(a)) and 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)). Nothing in our review of the record indicates that the hearing officer's decision is 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 hearing officer's decision and order are affirmed.

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

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

Chris Cowan
Appeals Judge

CONCUR:

Elaine M. Chaney
Appeals Judge

CONCUR IN THE RESULT:

Thomas A. Knapp
Appeals Judge