

---

In the Matter of the Compensation of  
**THOMAS C. RASMUSSEN, Claimant**  
Own Motion No. 08-0108M  
OWN MOTION ORDER  
Unrepresented Claimant  
Sedgwick Claims Mgmt Svcs, Carrier

Reviewing Panel: Members Weddell and Lowell.

The self-insured employer has submitted claimant's request for reopening of his Own Motion claim for a worsened condition. ORS 656.278(1)(a). Claimant's aggravation rights have expired. The employer recommends reopening claimant's 2003 claim under ORS 656.278(1)(a).

Based on the record, we are persuaded that claimant meets the criteria necessary for his claim to be reopened for a "worsening" of his previously accepted finger conditions. ORS 656.278(1)(a); *Robert A. Boehm, Jr.*, 58 Van Natta 168 (2006). Accordingly, we authorize the reopening of the claim for the insurer to process in accordance with law. When claimant's condition is medically stationary, the employer shall close the claim pursuant to OAR 438-012-0055.<sup>1</sup>

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Entered at Salem, Oregon on August 7, 2008

---

<sup>1</sup> In its letter accompanying its recommendation, the employer represents that the request for reopening "encompasses the payment of timeloss for this worsened condition." However, the sole issue before us is whether claimant's "worsened condition" claim should be reopened. Based on the above reasoning, we have determined that the claim should be reopened. In reaching that conclusion, we have not addressed claimant's entitlement to any temporary and/or permanent disability benefits which may arise from this reopening. Instead, such issues are claim processing matters that may later arise and are the employer's responsibility in the first instance. *Stacy Thompson*, 60 Van Natta 1085 (2008); *Tamara Kramer-Fischer*, 58 Van Natta 1456 (2006); *Duane L. Leafdahl*, 54 Van Natta 1796, 1799 (2002).

If claimant subsequently disagrees with the employer's future processing of the claim (for example, if the employer declines to pay temporary disability benefits and claimant disagrees with such an action), he may raise his concerns with the Board at that time.