
In the Matter of the Compensation of
JOHN WIHANDOJO, Claimant
WCB Case No. 16-00589
ORDER ON REVIEW
Unrepresented Claimant
SAIF Legal Salem, Defense Attorneys

Reviewing Panel: Members Lanning and Johnson.

Claimant, *pro se*,¹ requests review of Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Poland's order that upheld the SAIF Corporation's denial of claimant's occupational disease claim for a skin condition. On review, the issue is compensability.

We adopt and affirm the ALJ's order with the following supplementation.

The ALJ concluded that the medical evidence was not sufficient to establish that claimant sustained a compensable occupational disease concerning his skin condition.

On review, we acknowledge claimant's contentions. First, he asserts that the alleged causative substances were present at work, and that he began working with them in 2008. He contends that their written labels indicated that they caused health problems. Moreover, he argues that the "patch test report" by Dr. Norris, dermatology physician and surgeon who examined him at SAIF's request, was "not conclusive."

Due to the conflicting medical opinions, this causation issue presents a complex medical question that must be resolved by expert medical opinion. *Uris v. State Comp. Dep't*, 247 Or 420, 426 (1967); *Barnett v. SAIF*, 122 Or App 279, 283 (1993). In order for claimant to satisfy the statutory burden of proof, he must prove that employment conditions, including work-related injuries and cumulative work activities, were the major contributing cause of an occupational disease. ORS 656.266(1); ORS 656.802(2)(a).

¹ Because claimant is unrepresented, he may wish to consult the Ombudsman for Injured Workers. He may contact the Ombudsman, free of charge, at 1-800-927-1271, or write to:

OMBUDSMAN FOR INJURED WORKERS
DEPT OF CONSUMER & BUSINESS SERVICES
PO BOX 14480
SALEM, OR 97309-0405

Claimant relies on the opinion of Dr. Berney, his treating physician, to support a causal relationship between his work exposure and his condition. For the reasons expressed in the ALJ's order, Dr. Berney's opinion is insufficient to establish that claimant's work activities were the major contributing cause of his skin condition. Consequently, the medical record does not persuasively establish compensability of claimant's skin condition. Accordingly, we affirm.

ORDER

The ALJ's order dated April 28, 2017 is affirmed.

Entered at Salem, Oregon on September 25, 2017