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V.I. Department of Labor Implements Workers' Compensation Changes Under New Law

VIDOL begins implementing Act 8859, transitioning the Government Insurance Fund to the Workers' Compensation Trust Fund. The new system promises more efficient claims processing and direct support for workers and employers

Government / **Published On October 30, 2024 06:57 AM /**

Staff Consortium **October 30, 2024**

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V.I. Dept. of Labor Headquarters on St. Croix. By. ERNICE GILBERT, V.I. CONSORTIUM

The V.I. Department of Labor has officially begun implementing Act 8859, a notable legislative change that redefines the Government Insurance Fund, transferring it from the Department of Finance to DOL as the newly established Workers' Compensation Trust Fund.

This transition, announced by Labor Commissioner Gary Molloy on Tuesday, took effect following the law's passage on August 9, 2024, and aims to streamline the support process for workers who face injuries or illness as a result of their jobs.

According to the release, with this restructuring, the team previously managing the Government Insurance Fund is now integrated into VIDOL's Workers' Compensation Administration division as the Underwriting Unit. This change is anticipated to improve efficiency and precision in processing claims for workers' compensation, with offices available in both the St. Thomas and St. Croix districts.

The Workers' Compensation Trust Fund will continue to provide financial and medical assistance to eligible workers while supporting employers in maintaining safe work environments.

Act 8859 introduces new deadlines and payment guidelines, starting with an annual deadline for employers to submit their workers' compensation premium payments. All payments must be made directly at VIDOL's offices on St. Thomas or St. Croix, with the final annual payment deadline set for December 31, 2024. Employers who prefer to split their payments can do so semi-annually.

For injured workers awaiting compensation, DOL has set October 31, 2024, as the expected date for payments to be issued, providing timely financial support for those affected.

VIDOL encourages employers and workers with questions regarding the Workers' Compensation Trust Fund to contact their offices on St. Croix at (340) 773-1994 or St. Thomas at (340) 776-3700. Additional resources, updates, and detailed information about Act 8859 are accessible on VIDOL's website at www.vidol.gov or through their Facebook page at facebook.com/USVIDOL.