

DWC FORM - 51
Employee's Election for Commuted (Lump Sum)
Impairment Income Benefits

An injured employee may elect to receive the remainder of impairment income benefits to which the employee is entitled in a lump sum if the employee has returned to work for at least three months earning at least 80% of the employee's pre-injury average weekly wage. The employee may apply to receive a lump sum (commute) by filing an **Employee's Election for Commuted (Lump Sum) Impairment Income Benefits (DWC FORM-51)** with the **insurance carrier**. The employee must also **send a copy** of the completed form to the **Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation Field Office Handling the Claim**. The form may be obtained by contacting Claims Services in the field office.

The carrier must send a notice of approval or denial to both the Division and the injured employee no later than 14 days after receipt of the request. A notice of approval must include payment of the impairment income benefits in a lump sum. A notice of denial must include the carrier's reasons.

If the injured employee does not receive notice of approval or denial timely from the carrier, the injured employee may contact Claims Services in the Division field office handling the claim. If the carrier denies the request, the injured employee may request the Division to set a benefit review conference to resolve the issue.

If the injured employee receives a lump sum payment of impairment income benefits, the employee will not be able to collect supplemental income benefits or any other income benefits for the injury. Medical benefits related to this injury will not be affected by receiving the lump sum.

[Art. 8308-4.27, Commutation of Impairment Income Benefits, Art. 8308-4.10, Average Weekly Wage, Art. 8308-4.28, Supplemental Income Benefits, Texas Workers' Compensation Act; Rule 147.10]

