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To: Texas Workers' Compensation System Participants

From: Kara Mace, General Counsel

Date: [July 13, 2026](#)

Subject: Informal working draft of rule on AMA Guides Sixth 2025

The Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC) is accepting public comments on an informal working draft of a rule amending [28 Texas Administrative Code Section 130.1](#), concerning certification of maximum medical improvement and evaluation of permanent impairment.

The American Medical Association (AMA) publishes the AMA Guides to the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment (AMA Guides), which provides criteria for assigning impairment ratings. The amendments would implement [Texas Labor Code Section 408.124](#), which requires that an award of impairment income benefits be based on an impairment rating determined using impairment rating guidelines published by the AMA. [Section 408.124](#) allows the commissioner to adopt subsequent editions of the AMA Guides for determining the existence and degree of an employee's impairment. The DWC medical advisor recommends the amendments to the commissioner under [Labor Code §413.0511\(b\)](#).

[28 TAC Section 130.1](#) requires a doctor that certifies that an injured employee has reached maximum medical improvement to assign an impairment rating for the compensable injury using the rating criteria in the AMA Guides. The current rule requires the use of the fourth edition of the AMA Guides, which was last issued in 2000, over 25 years ago. The amendments update the required edition of the AMA Guides to the sixth edition (AMA Guides Sixth), posted on AMA Guides Digital on December 2, 2025, and any subsequent nonsubstantive updates to AMA Guides Sixth. The updated requirement would apply to examinations on or after January 1, 2028 (tentatively). The requirements in the current rule would continue to apply to examinations conducted before that date. Amending [Section 130.1](#) is necessary to ensure that doctors in the Texas workers' compensation system are using the most up-to-date, evidence-based standards consistent with modern advancements in medical care to assign impairment ratings based on current medical knowledge and experience.

DWC will hold a stakeholder presentation on August 12, 2026, to review the project timeline and discuss the implementation of training, testing, and any other potential changes.

DWC will post a copy of the informal working draft rule on the website at www.tdi.texas.gov/wc/rules/2026rules.html.

Submit any written comments on the informal working draft rule to RuleComments@tdi.texas.gov, or mail or deliver your comments to

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The deadline to submit all comments is 5 p.m., Central time, on August 13, 2026.