

NEW SECTION

WAC 192-110-006 Waiving the week requirement when the first week of unemployment benefits are federally funded. Starting after the week ending March 7, 2020, through the week ending September 4, 2021, and any other week where the one week waiting period is fully paid or fully reimbursed by the federal government, you will not be required to serve an unpaid waiting week before you receive unemployment insurance benefits.

WAC 192-240-070 What happens if I am paid emergency or extended benefits when I am eligible for a new unemployment claim? If you are paid pandemic unemployment assistance established under Sec. 2102 of Public Law No. 116-136, as amended, emergency unemployment compensation (which includes pandemic emergency unemployment compensation under Sec. 2107 of Public Law No. 166-136, as amended), state extended benefits, or any similar state or federal extension, and it is later discovered that you were eligible for a regular unemployment claim during all or part of the period in which you received such benefits, the regular unemployment claim takes priority. If you were paid pandemic unemployment assistance, and it is later discovered that you were eligible for pandemic unemployment compensation or extended benefits, a claim for pandemic emergency unemployment compensation or extended benefits takes priority. The balance on your new unemployment claim will be adjusted for any week(s) at issue, meaning those weeks in which you should have received regular unemployment benefits, subject to the following:

(1) Except as provided in subsection (4) of this section, you may not be paid twice for the same week

(2) If your new weekly benefit amount is equal to the amount you were paid for the weeks at issue, the amount you were paid in pandemic unemployment assistance, emergency unemployment compensation or extended benefits will be deducted from the maximum benefits payable on your new claim.

Example: Your previous weekly benefit amount was five hundred dollars. You received emergency unemployment compensation for eight weeks at this amount when it was discovered you were eligible for a new claim in the amount of five hundred dollars. The five hundred dollars paid for eight weeks will be deducted from the maximum benefits payable on your new claim.

(3) If your new weekly benefit amount is lower than the amount you were paid for the weeks at issue, the amount you were paid in pandemic unemployment assistance, emergency unemployment compensation or extended benefits that is equivalent to the weekly benefit amount on your new claim will be deducted from the maximum benefits payable on your new claim. The difference between the amounts paid in pandemic unemployment assistance, emergency unemployment compensation or extended benefits for the week(s) at issue and the weekly benefit amount on your new claim will be waived as provided in RCW 50.20.190.

Example: Your previous weekly benefit amount was five hundred dollars. You received emergency unemployment compensation for eight weeks at this amount when it was discovered you were eligible for a new claim in the amount of three hundred-fifty dollars. The three hundred-fifty dollars for eight weeks will be deducted from the maximum benefits payable on your new claim. The one hundred-fifty dollar difference between your previous weekly benefit amount and your new weekly benefit amount will be waived.

(4) If your new weekly benefit amount is higher than the amount you were paid for the week(s) at issue, the amount you were paid in emergency unemployment compensation or extended benefits will be supplemented so that you receive your new weekly benefit amount for the weeks at issue and the total deducted from the maximum benefits payable on your new claim.

For example: Your previous weekly benefit amount was three hundred-fifty dollars. You received emergency unemployment compensation for eight weeks at this amount when it was discovered you were eligible for a new claim in the amount of five hundred dollars. You will be paid an additional one hundred-fifty dollars for each of the eight weeks at issue and the total deducted from the maximum benefits payable on your new claim.

WAC 192-110-015 Applications by standby workers—RCW 50.20.010.

(1) What is "standby?"

(a) "Standby" means you are temporarily unemployed because of a lack of work but:

(i) You expect to return to work with your regular employer within four weeks; or

(ii) You expect to begin full-time work with a new employer within two weeks; or

(iii) You are temporarily unemployed due to natural disaster.

(b) ~~((You do not have))~~ The requirement to register for work ((or look for other work while)) and search for work is fulfilled so long as you are on standby and take reasonable measures to maintain contact with your employer.

(c) You must be available for all hours of work offered by your regular employer.

(2) How long can I be on standby?

(a) You can ask to be on standby for up to four weeks.

(b) We will ask your employer to verify that you are on standby, including your expected return to work date:

(i) If your employer does not reply, you can be on standby for up to four weeks;

(ii) If your employer confirms you are on standby, you can be on standby until the return to work date given by your employer, subject to the limitations of (c) of this subsection;

(iii) If your employer replies that you are not on standby or do not have a return to work date within eight weeks, we will require you to immediately register for work and to look for work.

(c) Your regular employer may ask that you be placed on standby for a maximum of eight weeks (except as provided in (2)(d) below). This request must be approved by the department. We will consider the following before deciding whether to approve standby for more than four weeks:

(i) How long you have been out of work;

(ii) Whether other suitable work is available;

(iii) The impact on you and your employer if you accept other work; and

(iv) Other factors that apply to your situation.

(d) At ~~((his or her))~~ the discretion of the commissioner, the commissioner may grant standby for more than eight weeks in a benefit year. Exceptions can be made due to natural disaster. Exceptions can also be made in other extraordinary circumstances when the employer applies in writing and shows there are conditions that apply to the business that are so unique or unusual compared to similar businesses that having their employees on standby for more than eight weeks is necessary.

(e) We can approve standby if you have obtained a definite offer of bona fide full-time work that has a probable start date within two weeks, which includes the week of the job offer and up to two additional weeks. The job, however, must be:

(i) With a new employer or with a former employer to whom you are no longer attached as provided in subsection (3)(f) of this section; and

(ii) Covered by Title 50 RCW or the comparable laws of another state or the federal government.

(f) Any weeks of standby you used prior to July 4, 2021, will be disregarded for calculating the number of weeks you are allowed to be on standby.

(3) Are there conditions that apply to a request for standby?

(a) You must have a probable date when you will return to work for your regular employer;

(b) We will not approve standby if you only have prospects of future work with your regular employer or a promise of more work at some unspecified date;

(c) We will not approve standby with your regular employer unless the employment is covered by Title 50 RCW or the comparable laws of another state or the federal government;

~~(d) ((Except for claimants who qualify as part-time eligible workers under RCW 50.20.119, we will not approve standby if you regularly work less than full-time. For purposes of this section, "full-time" means forty hours each week or the number of hours that are full-time for your occupation and labor market area;))~~ Standby is available to all full-time, part-time, and other less than full-time employees;

(e) Any week(s) that you do not qualify for benefits will not be considered as part of the maximum eight weeks of standby; ~~((and))~~

(f) After eight consecutive weeks of unemployment, we will no longer consider you attached to that employer. You must meet the job search requirements specified by RCW 50.20.010 (1)(c) and 50.20.240; and

(g) For any claims between March 22, 2020, and July 3, 2021, you are automatically deemed to be on standby. Such weeks will not count towards the four weeks of standby you may request pursuant to subsection (2)(a) of this section or the eight weeks requested by your employer in subsection (2)(b)(ii) of this section.

(4) When does standby begin?

(a) Standby begins the day of your request unless your request is backdated pursuant to (b) of this subsection.

(b)(i) You may backdate your request for standby up to one week for any reason.

(ii) Your request for standby may also be backdated for the convenience of the department. "For the convenience of the department" means for the purpose of program administration; or those situations where it is difficult or impossible to accept a timely request including, but not limited to, equipment breakdowns, lack of available staff, or special handling requirements.