



RELEASE – REVISION OF DCMWC PROCEDURE MANUAL CHAPTER 2-1001, ESTABLISHING THE PRESENCE OF PNEUMOCONIOSIS

BLBA TRANSMITTAL NO. 20-04

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EXPLANATION OF MATERIAL TRANSMITTED:

This transmittal publishes the updated DCMWC Procedure Manual Chapter 2-1001, Establishing the Presence of Pneumoconiosis. This update incorporates regulatory and procedural changes effective following the September 1994 release of the prior chapter.

Changes in this chapter provide guidelines and standards followed by DCMWC in determining the presence of pneumoconiosis in a claim for benefits under the Black Lung Benefits Act (BLBA).

In addition to updates within this chapter, are the requirements of eligibility for payable benefits based on total disability or death due to pneumoconiosis, along with the methods to establish the existence of pneumoconiosis (medical evidence or presumption) equally sufficient to demonstrate such.

In an effort to streamline and consolidate policy and procedural guidance, as each updated chapter is released, the previous chapter and associated guidance in the Black Lung Library will be removed from the library and archived for historical purposes. The updated chapter will be posted on the DCMWC website as well as the Black Lung Library.

Action: Staff should destroy locally-stored paper copies of the previous version of Procedure Manual Chapter 2-1001.

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Distribution: All DCMWC Staff and National Administrator-DCMWC-Black Lung Field Operations