

**UI Quarterly News**  
2nd Quarter 2013  
**Colorado Department of Labor and Employment**  
**Unemployment Insurance Division**  
[www.coloradou.gov](http://www.coloradou.gov)

John Hickenlooper  
Governor



Ellen Golombek  
Executive Director

**HELLO EMPLOYER,**

In this quarter's newsletter, we discuss some new unemployment insurance (UI) tools to help increase your efficiency in dealing with us and we introduce a few new legislative items that may impact your business.

**NEW — ONE STOP, 24x7 ACCESS TO YOUR UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PREMIUM ACCOUNT**

You can now manage your Colorado UI premium account online. Our new tool, MyUI Employer, gives you secure access to your account and will allow you to:

- File both wage and premium reports online
- Pay premiums online
- View current and historical balances and rates
- Access account status and reporting due dates
- Request duplicate rate notices and 940 certification documents
- Close or modify accounts

To create an account, visit <https://myuiemployer.coworkforce.com/>. Be sure to complete our survey and tell us what you think!

**UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE PREMIUM REFORMS FOR 2013**

House Bill 11-1288 was passed in the 2011 legislative session and went into effect on July 1, 2011. Because the Unemployment Trust Fund became solvent prior to June 30, 2012, there were many parts to this law that affect employers for the first time in 2013:

- The wages on which an employer is required to pay premiums, known as the chargeable wage base, adjusted to \$11,300.
- The previous premium rate table was repealed, and a new rate table is used to determine an employer's premium rate.
- A socialized surcharge (previously .22 percent) is no longer added to an employer's rate.
- The solvency surcharge rate table and criteria for triggering on and off changed.

NOTE: The solvency surcharge is NOT in effect for 2013.

These changes were reflected on your 2013 rate notice, which was mailed in November 2012. For more information, visit [Premiums](#) on the [CDLE](#) website.

## **NEW WORK SHARE LEGISLATION**

The Colorado Work Share Program was created by the general assembly in 2010 to allow employees whose work hours have been reduced to collect prorated unemployment benefits as long as certain requirements are met by the employer and the employee. Effective July 1, 2013, Senate Bill 13-157 extends the Work Share Program and contains modifications to meet the new federal requirements for work share, which is also called short-time compensation.

Some of the highlights of the law are to:

- Extend the program indefinitely.
- Allow eligible employees to participate in certain job training programs.
- Increase the cap on the number of weeks that employees may be paid benefits from 18 to 26 weeks.
- Change the number of employees included in the plan from 10 percent of the work unit or business to 2 or more employees.

## **BOND SECURES STABILITY OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TRUST FUND**

In order to increase the financial health of the UI Trust Fund and provide relief to Colorado employers, we secured a bond transaction totaling \$630 million.

Interest on bonds issued will be assessed annually to employers identified as subject to bond-interest repayment until bond repayment is complete. Bond interest assessments will be mailed in September of every year until the bond is paid off.

The following types of employers are **not** subject to bond-interest repayment:

- State government
- Political subdivisions
- Employers with a benefits-charged account balance of zero
- Employers with percent of excess greater than or equal to +7
- Reimbursing employers

## **JOB-SEPARATION INFORMATION REQUESTS - NOW ONLINE!**

The State Information Data Exchange System (SIDES) is a national electronic-transmission system that communicates and transmits unemployment job-separation information efficiently, accurately, and securely between UI agencies, large multistate employers, and third-party agencies.

We have expanded the SIDES system to allow small businesses to begin using a similar service called SIDES E-Response. Participating small employers are able to electronically send and receive separation data instead of sending paper requests and responses.

Now, employers can provide a quick and efficient resolution to separation issues online. Employers can even attach additional documentation to job-separation responses.

With the online system, employers will receive a date-stamped confirmation, avoiding the cost of unnecessary hearings. In addition, employers will also be helping to reduce improper payments through a streamlined fact-finding process.

To sign up visit [www.coloradoui.gov/jobseparations](http://www.coloradoui.gov/jobseparations).

## **EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION LAW AUDITS**

All public and private employers in Colorado must comply with the requirements of the Colorado Employment Verification Law, Colorado Revised Statutes 8-2-122. This law is in addition to federal Form I-9 requirements and applies to all Colorado employees hired on or after January 1, 2007. There are two main components to the law: (1) an affirmation requirement, and (2) a requirement to make and retain copies of employee identity and employment eligibility documentation.

The Colorado Division of Labor conducts audits of employers to determine compliance with the law. Employers who are not meeting the requirements of the law may be subject to fines up to \$5,000 for the first offense, and up to \$25,000 for second and subsequent offenses per employee.

For more information, visit [Employment Verification Law](#) on the [CDLE](#) website.

## **CONTRACTS FOR SERVICES WITH PUBLIC ENTITIES REMINDER**

Contractors who enter into or renew a public contract for services with Colorado state agencies or political subdivisions must participate in either the federal [E-Verify](#) program or the [Department Program](#).

The Colorado Division of Labor may conduct audits of contractors to determine compliance with the law. Violations of the law may result in contract termination and liability for actual and consequential damages.

For more information, visit [Public Contracts for Services](#) on the [CDLE](#) website.

## **QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS?**

For unemployment insurance premium questions and issues related to your account, email Unemployment Insurance Employer Services at [cdle\\_ui\\_employer\\_services@state.co.us](mailto:cdle_ui_employer_services@state.co.us). You may also call 303-318-9100 (Denver-metro area) or 1-800-480-8299 (outside Denver-metro area).