

COVID-19



NIB Coronavirus Update

PRESS STATEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 23, 2020

UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT (UEB) - COVID-19

Unemployment Benefit can be payable where an employed person is temporarily laid off because of the negative economic impacts of COVID-19.

National Insurance (Benefits and Assistance) Regulation (47A[1][2]) prescribes that Unemployment Benefit (UEB) shall be awarded to a person (insured as an employed person) who has not attained the age of 65 years and is:

- a. Unemployed and has an interruption of earnings from his employment; or
- b. Laid off and has suspension of earnings from his employment.

A person is deemed to be "laid-off" for any period in which he has suspension of earnings because his employer has not provided him in that week with work.

Qualifying Conditions:

1. You must be able to satisfy the Department of Labour that you are -
 - a. capable of work (working legally in the country); and
 - b. available to work
2. You must have paid at least 52 contributions overall; and
3. You must have paid and/or been credited with at least:
 - 13 contributions in the 26 contribution weeks immediately preceding the first day that the continuous period of unemployment began; and
 - 7 contributions in the 13 contribution weeks immediately preceding the first day that the continuous period of unemployment began.

Employer's Confirmation

The Termination of Service/Lay-Off Certificate (Form B80) must support all claims by employed persons for Unemployment Benefit. The Certificate is your employer's independent confirmation that you have been laid-off or are otherwise not employed by him. Where it is impossible to obtain the B80 from your employer, a note to that effect, along with complete contacts for the employer, must be noted.

Benefit Entitlement and Duration

Unemployment Benefit is paid at a rate of 50% of the qualifying claimant's average insured income.

UEB is payable for up to 13 weeks but should you return to work at any point in the 13 weeks, the benefit will stop.

Claim Submission

Completed UEB claim forms (B82) can be dropped off to your nearest NIB Local Office where practicable or emailed to customerservice@nib-bahamas.com.

Please Note: Unemployment Benefit that is prescribed under Regulation 47A (1) of the Benefits and Assistance Regulations is payable only to Employed Persons as defined by section 12(1)(a) of the National Insurance Act. Employed Persons pay 9.8% in contributions, while self-employed persons pay 8.8%; the 1% difference is the cost



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