

Overview of the Defense Base Act

- Federal law mandates that employees who work on international government contracts be protected under the DBA which requires government contractors and subcontractors to provide workers' compensation coverage for work-related accidents.
- The DBA is an extension of the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act (LHWCA) which provides disability compensation and medical benefits to employees and death benefits to eligible survivors.
- The DBA applies to civilian employees of government contractors and subcontractors while working outside of the U.S.
- Employees covered include U.S. and foreign nationals as well as local nationals.
- Claims should be reported to CNA as soon as possible as losses must be reported to the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) within 10 days of the employer's knowledge of injury or death. Our claim team is available to help you navigate through the claim process. Please refer to the overview of claim services to learn more about our excellent customer service.

Federal law requires Defense Base Act (DBA) workers' compensation coverage for contractors and their employees while working abroad. As a leader in both foreign and domestic workers' compensation coverage, CNA has the underwriting and risk analysis expertise to respond to your business needs. CNA has secured exclusive contracts with several government agencies to provide DBA coverage for their civilian contractors while working outside the Continental U.S. As businesses look to expand their operations into the global arena, understanding of this product is more important than ever. CNA's years of global underwriting and claims experience allow us to stand out in this business.

Overview of CNA Claim Services

CNA has a dedicated team with experienced claim handlers available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to respond to DBA claims that occur in any country. We also work with DBA experts in the legal, investigative, repatriation, translation and medical service areas giving us insight into Department of Labor (DOL) requirements which helps us to resolve DBA claims as quickly as possible.

Overview of Coverages and Benefits

Contractors and subcontractors performing U.S. government work overseas must carry Defense Base Act coverage. Common examples of such contracts include public works projects and security activities.

Injury benefits include medical, surgical and hospital treatment as well as medical supplies and prescriptions. Medical transportation is also included when directly related to the job-related injury.

Disability compensation benefits include payment every two weeks during an employee's total disability as a result of a work-related injury.

FAQs

Q: When do I need to contact CNA to obtain coverage?

A: You should contact your insurance agent or broker to obtain CNA coverage before the job bidding process starts.

Q: Am I required to report claims to the Department of Labor?

A: Yes. The Department of Labor requires that a form is completed and sent within 10 days of the employer's knowledge of injury or death. This form is called the Employer's First Report of Injury or Occupational Illness and is otherwise known as the LS-202. Your CNA expert claim team will work with you to resolve questions you may have about the completion of this form.

Q: Am I responsible for providing workers' compensation coverage for foreign nationals?

A: Yes. Employers should ensure that they have purchased coverage for their employees who work outside of the U.S. on U.S. government contracts, regardless of the nationality of the worker.

Additional information may be found on the Department of Labor's Web site by accessing the DBA page at www.dol.gov/esa/owcp/dlhwc/lbdba.htm. An excellent source for answers to questions may be found on the DOL Web site's DBA FAQ page at www.dol.gov/esa/owcp/dlhwc/DBAFaqs.htm.

