



3.30.2015 - Changes to Unemployment Processing for Employers in Pennsylvania

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What is Changing?

Employers and third party administrators (TPAs) will now have the option to respond to Unemployment Compensation (UC) information requests on the web using the new State Data Exchange System (SIDES) and SIDES E-Response. The system is designed to make it easier and more efficient for employers to respond to UC information requests.

What is the reason for the change?

It can be a challenge for employers and TPAs to respond to paper based unemployment compensation (UC) information requests fully and within the given deadline, this results in improper UC payments - lack of accurate information as to why an employee was separated from their job; claimants who work while receiving benefits.

Improper payments negatively impact employers' bottom lines!

The process becomes even more difficult when companies have sites in multiple states. Until recently, there was no national standard for Unemployment processing. The new E-Response system is a nationally-standardized format for responding to UC information requests.

What is SIDES and SIDES E-Response?

SIDES and SIDES E-Response is a free web-based system available to employers and third party administrators that provides a secure, electronic and nationally-standardized format to respond to UC information requests. Employers and TPAs can respond to requests, attach documentation when needed and receive a date stamped confirmation of receipt.

How does this benefit employers?

SIDES and SIDES E-Response have the potential to significantly improve the UC information exchange process for employers. It will streamline and simplify the UC response process and it will offer many benefits:

- Save time and money
- Available for free
- Reduces staff time
- Reduces paper work
- Helps keep UC rates as low as possible by reducing overpayments
- Provides an electronic, nationally standardized data format
- Includes data checks to ensure the exchange of complete and valid information

What is the next step for employers?

If employers are interested in the new system, they have two options, both of which are free of charge and have multiple levels of security in order to protect the sensitive data that is being exchanged.

For employers with a smaller number of UC claims per year, the SIDES E-Response system provides a quick and easy portal for posting responses electronically. The system is available to any employer or third party administrators, in participating states, with internet access.

For employers that have a larger volume of claims per year and especially those that have claims in multiple states, SIDES provides a more automated data-sharing and file-tracking interface between employers' information technology systems and the state agency networks.

If you are interested in registering for SIDES or SIDES E-Response, please visit your states DLI website and click on the SIDES link to download the instructions and application.

Questions about getting started with SIDES or SIDES E-RESPONSE, McCloskey Partners, LLC can assist you. Contact us today to discuss your needs at admin@mccloskeypartners.com or 215-716-3035.