



Edmund G. Brown Jr.  
Governor

December 30, 2011

To: Voluntary Plan Self-Insurers

Subject: GENERAL RELEASE LETTER FOR 2012

The General Release letter provides information on recent legislation, regulation, and procedural changes that affect your voluntary plan (VP) for the 2012 Calendar Year. This outlines actions needed to ensure continued approval of your plan.

You can access information about State Disability Insurance (SDI), the Paid Family Leave (PFL) program, and the Voluntary Plan Group (VPG) on the Disability Insurance web page at [www.edd.ca.gov/disability](http://www.edd.ca.gov/disability).

For assistance with your voluntary plan, contact us at 916-653-6839, or see "Voluntary Plan Group Contacts" on page 9 where you will find the appropriate staff for your questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth Wahnnon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ELIZABETH WAHNON  
Deputy Director  
Disability Insurance Branch

Attachments



## Acronyms

- AB Assembly Bill
- CCR California Code of Regulations, Title 22
- CUIC California Unemployment Insurance Code
- DI Disability Insurance
- DIA Disability Insurance Automation
- DIVP Disability Insurance Voluntary Plan
- EDD Employment Development Department
- ER Employer
- FMLA Family and Medical Leave Act
- FTDI Family Temporary Disability Insurance
- GR General Release
- HIPAA Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- MBA Maximum Benefit Amount
- MWBA Maximum Weekly Benefit Amount
- PFL Paid Family Leave
- SB Senate Bill
- SBTPA Small Business Third Party Administrator
- SDI State Disability Insurance
- UI Unemployment Insurance
- UCD Unemployment Compensation Disability
- VP Voluntary Plan
- VPAG Voluntary Plan Advisory Group
- VPDI Voluntary Plan Disability Insurance (Claim)
- VPFL Voluntary Plan Paid Family Leave (Claim)
- VPG Voluntary Plan Group
- WBA Weekly Benefit Amount

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## 1. 2012 Legislation/Regulations

As of the date of issue of the General Release letter, there are no chaptered Assembly or Senate bills that directly affected voluntary plans.

## 2. Contribution Rate and Wage Ceiling

Effective January 1, 2012, the SDI worker contribution rate for SDI is **1.0 percent** of an employee's gross taxable wages up to \$95,585. The taxable wage ceiling increased to \$93,316 in 2010, remained at \$93,316 in 2011, and increases to \$95,585 in 2012.

**Reference: California Unemployment Insurance Code (CUIC) Section 984**

The SDI program taxes covered employees up to a ceiling set by Section 985 of the CUIC. The 2012 SDI taxable wage ceiling (the maximum amount of wages per employee that are subject to SDI contributions) will be \$95,585. The maximum annual contribution per employee for 2012 will be \$955.85 (\$95,585 x 1.0 percent). Employers report these contributions to the EDD Tax Branch on the Quarterly Contribution Return, DE 3D, line D, box D1 Voluntary Plan.

**Reference: CUIC Section 985**

## 3. Voluntary Plan Assessment Rate

Effective January 1, 2012, the Voluntary Plan assessment rate (on line K of the Quarterly Contribution Return, Form DE 3D) will decrease from 0.168 percent (0.00168) to **0.140 percent** (0.0014). This figure is the product obtained by multiplying the worker contribution rate by 14 percent, or  $0.01 \times 0.14 = 0.0014$ .

**Reference: CUIC Section 3252[b]**

Employers using a voluntary plan must remit payments along with their employment tax payments. Employers may pay the assessment out of their corporate funds, or charge it to the VP trust fund. When charged to the VP trust fund, the expenditure must be shown on the Annual Report of Self-Insured Voluntary Plan Transactions, Form DE 2568V Rev. 21 (11-08), and submitted to the Voluntary Plan Group (VPG).

## 4. Small Business Third Party Administrator (SBTPA) Implementation

Effective January 1, 2011, the CUIC allows a qualified small business third party administrator to apply to the Director of the EDD for approval to establish and administer a VP for payment of disability benefits on behalf of its clients; the majority of which must be small employers.

The SBTPA administers voluntary disability plans on behalf of its employer-clients pursuant to a written agreement in a form and manner approved by the Director.

The SBTPA must have at least 1,000 California domiciled clients, 80 percent of whom have fewer than 20 employees.

Entities interested in becoming an SBTPA can request the guidelines from the Voluntary Plan Group or access the required forms on the EDD DI Voluntary Plan web page at: [http://www.edd.ca.gov/Disability/VP\\_Forms\\_and\\_Publications.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Disability/VP_Forms_and_Publications.htm).

**Reference: CUIC Section 3254.1**

## **5. Electronic Benefit Program**

The Branch implemented the Electronic Benefit Payment (EBP) debit card in December 2010.

The EDD, with Bank of America, provides eligible claimants with an EDD Debit Card<sup>SM</sup> that is valid for three years from the date of issue. Benefit payments are deposited into eligible claimants debit card accounts.

Eligible claimants have access to these funds 24 hours a day; 7 days a week everywhere, Visa Debit Cards are accepted. Direct deposit transfers to a checking or savings account are available, as well as cash access through tellers at any Visa bank or credit union.

If employers or employees have questions concerning the EDD Debit Card<sup>SM</sup> they can visit the EDD website home page that contains frequently asked questions (FAQ) at [edd.ca.gov](http://edd.ca.gov) or call (866) 692-9374.

## **6. Disability Insurance Automation (DIA) Project**

The EDD DI Branch will implement an online claim processing system that will be available in summer 2012 to claimants, employers, medical providers, and voluntary plans for submission of DI and PFL claims information over the Internet.

The system will allow VP employers to submit claim information online and provide the ability to continuously update and view claim activities. In addition to other benefits, it will enable registered VP employers to input their DE 2523 forms directly into the DIA system and generate an immediate response regarding the claimant benefit payment award.

The EDD is developing DIA procedures for employers that will include instructions on how to obtain USER ID and passwords to access the DIA system. The procedures will be included in a special GR letter and posted on the EDD website in conjunction with the release date.

- The EDD presented an overview of the DIA system at the last VP Advisory Group meeting held at Stanford University on October 6, 2011.

❖ Please see Attachment 3 for the Q/A from the VP Advisory meeting.

## 7. e-Services for Business

The e-Services for Business program provides DIVP employers and their agents with the ability to manage their EDD payroll tax accounts online.

### DIVP employers can use e-Services for Business to:

- File required forms including:
  - Quarterly Contribution Return – (DE 3D)
  - Quarterly Contribution Return and Report of Wages (Continuation) – (DE 9C)
  - Report of New Employee(s) – (DE 34)
  - Report of Independent Contractor(s) – (DE 542)
- Make payments online by credit card or electronic funds transfer.
- View account information.
- Make account updates, including address changes.

### For DIVP employers with payroll agents:

- Payroll agents can use e-Services for Business to file employment tax forms and make payments.
- Employers can view their account information online.

### Why use e-Services for Business?

- It is a fast, easy, and secure way to manage your payroll taxes.
- E-Service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.
- Enrollment in e-Services is easy access: <https://eddservices.edd.ca.gov>.

### For further assistance with e-Services for Business, EDD offers the following:

- Online tutorials with instructions for enrolling and logging-in as an employer or agent at:  
[http://edd.ca.gov/Payroll\\_Taxes/e-Services\\_for\\_Business\\_Tutorials.htm](http://edd.ca.gov/Payroll_Taxes/e-Services_for_Business_Tutorials.htm).
- FAQs (Frequently Asked Questions) at:  
[http://edd.ca.gov/Payroll\\_Taxes/FAQ\\_-\\_e-Services\\_for\\_Business.htm](http://edd.ca.gov/Payroll_Taxes/FAQ_-_e-Services_for_Business.htm).
- ❖ Stay connected with EDD through our e-mail subscription service, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and RSS feeds.

## 8. Calendar of Required Actions for the Year 2012

### **Effective Immediately:**

#### Voluntary Plan Text Amendments Require Immediate Notification of Employees

The law requires that immediate notification be given to covered employees of any VP amendment no later than the effective date of the amendment. The notice of the amendment should include notification of the right to withdraw from the VP as of the effective date of the amendment. The VP is also required to notify immediately the EDD of any plan text changes as well.

#### **Reference: CUIC Section 3271[a]**

The amendment process is outlined in Section 800 of the Employer's Guide to Voluntary Plan Procedures, DE 2040 at:

[http://edd.ca.gov/Payroll\\_Taxes/e-Services\\_for\\_Business\\_Tutorials.htm](http://edd.ca.gov/Payroll_Taxes/e-Services_for_Business_Tutorials.htm).

- Please submit all plan text amendments to the Voluntary Plan Group for approval by February 15, 2012.

### **By January 1, 2012:**

- Provide written notice to your VP employees of the maximum weekly benefit amount (MWBA) of \$1,011 and maximum benefit amount (MBA) of \$52,572 and any other plan changes. A notice of benefit changes is not necessary, if your VP already provides a higher weekly benefit amount (WBA) and maximum benefit amount.
- Notify VP and SDI covered employees that the contribution rate last year of 1.2 percent will decrease to **1.0** percent of taxable wages. The taxable wage ceiling increases to \$95,585 in 2012. VP employers may decrease their VP contribution rate and VP taxable wage ceiling to levels lower than the SDI contribution rate and SDI tax ceiling. Please note, the \$95,585 taxable wage ceiling applies to both SDI and VP wages reported on lines D1 Voluntary Plan and D2 State Plan, Quarterly Contribution Return, Form DE 3D. (See "Contribution Rate and Wage Ceiling," page 1)

### **By February 15, 2012:**

- For all changes to your VP, please provide the VPG with written documentation describing all amendments made to your 2012 plan. Include a copy of the employee notice informing employees of any rate changes and/or plan amendments.

- Complete and return the enclosed “Voluntary Plan 2012 Security Review” worksheet, Attachment 1, outlining proposed changes to your security deposit, along with required documents to the VPG.
- Complete and return to the VPG the “Voluntary Plan Administrative Changes” information sheet, Attachment 2, only if you have changes to report.
- Download, complete, and return the Annual Report of Self-Insured VP Transactions, Form DE 2568V Rev. 21 (11-08) for Calendar Year 2011 to the VPG, by February 15, 2012. Employers can obtain the DE 2568V on the EDD Internet website at: [http://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf\\_pub\\_ctr/de2568v.pdf](http://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de2568v.pdf) .

The DE 2568V Rev. 21 (11-08) can be submitted to EDD via e-mail at: [vp68v@edd.ca.gov](mailto:vp68v@edd.ca.gov).

**Reference: California Code of Regulations (CCR) Title 22 Section 3267-2**

- ❖ Mail hard copies of the DE 2568V to the VPG at the following address:

EDD, Disability Insurance  
Voluntary Plan Group  
P.O. Box 826880, MIC 29VP  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

- ❖ Fax hard copies of the DE 2568V to 916-653-6209.

**NOTE:** Use the most recent version of the form, DE 2568V. Using an old version may be returned as incomplete. You must use the most recent version of the form and make sure all fields are filled in with the correct data. If a field is not applicable, enter zero (0) or N/A (not applicable).

For more information about the DE 2568V Rev. 21 (11-08), see the Employer’s Guide to Voluntary Plan Procedures, Sections 740-755, on the EDD website at: <a href="http://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de2040.pdf">http://www.edd.ca.gov/pdf_pub_ctr/de2040.pdf</a>
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**Reference: CUI Section 3271[a]**

## **9. How to Determine When to Increase/Decrease a Security Deposit**

- **Making Adjustments to Existing Security Deposits**

The 2012 contribution rate is 1.0 percent of an employee's taxable wages, and the taxable wage ceiling is \$95,585. The amount of your existing security deposit may need adjusting due to the new contribution rate used in the calculation. We have included a Voluntary Plan 2012 Security Review worksheet, Attachment 1, to assist you with this calculation. Please complete and return the worksheet to the VPG by

February 15, 2012, regardless of whether a change was made to your VP security amount.

**Reference: CUIC Section 3258**

If the difference between your existing security and the required amount is more than 5 percent, you must increase your security amount.

EXAMPLE #1:           Required Security Amount:     \$205,000  
                          Existing Security Amount:     \$200,000

Example #1 indicates that the security amount does not need increasing, since the difference between the two amounts is only 2.5 percent.

EXAMPLE #2:           Required Security Amount:     \$219,350  
                          Existing Security Amount:     \$205,000

Example #2 indicates that the difference between the two amounts exceeds 5 percent, thus requiring you to increase the security amount.

If a security increase is required, when instructed to do so, please return the Voluntary Plan 2012 Security Review worksheet with one of the following items to the VPG by February 15, 2012:

- Guarantee bond rider amendment.
- Letter of credit amendment.
- Cash.
- Bearer bond.

Before submitting any change in security, please review Section 780 of the Employer's Guide to Voluntary Plan Procedures.

**Reference: CCR, Title 22, Section 3258-1; CUIC Section 3258**

## **10. How to Complete the Voluntary Plan 2012 Security Review Worksheet**

To complete the worksheet, first obtain a reasonable estimate of your 2012 taxable wages up to the ceiling amount of \$95,585 per employee, and then calculate the required security amount by applying the following formula:

- 2012 Estimated VP Total Taxable Wages x 0.5 (per CUIC Section 3258) x 1.0 percent (worker contribution rate beginning January 1, 2012) = estimated 2012 security amount.
- Round up to the next even \$100.00

- Minimum required deposit is \$1,000.00

EXAMPLE #1: Year 2011 taxable wages = \$1,455,000  
(\$1,455,000) x .5 x .010 = \$7,275  
Security deposit should be \$7,300 because you are required to round up to the next even \$100.

EXAMPLE #2: Year 2011 taxable wages = \$155,000  
(\$155,000 x .5) x .010 = \$775  
Security deposit should be rounded up to \$1,000 because the minimum required security deposit is \$1,000.

- ❖ See Attachment 1 for the 2012 Security Review Worksheet.

## 11. Where to Send Your Security Deposit

### Guarantee Bond or Letter of Credit Deposits

Send the original and one copy of your Guarantee Bond or Letter of Credit to one of the following addresses, depending on mail or in-person delivery.

#### Mailing Address

EDD, Disability Insurance Branch  
Voluntary Plan Group  
Attention: Security Analyst  
P.O. Box 826880, MIC 29VP  
29VP  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

#### In-Person Delivery Address

EDD, Disability Insurance Branch  
Voluntary Plan Group  
Attention: Security Analyst  
800 Capitol Mall, Room 3137, MIC  
Sacramento, CA 95814

## 12. Voluntary Plan Advisory Group

The EDD actively participates in the Voluntary Plan Advisory Group (VPAG). The VPAG consists of VP employers, third-party administrators (TPA), and EDD representatives who meet semi-annually in the spring and fall, to discuss VP issues and pending legislation, share common concerns, clarify VP claim procedures, and exchange ideas to improve the VP program.

The Fall 2011 VPAG meeting was held at Stanford University on Thursday, October 6, 2011. The next meeting will be held in April 2012, location to be determined.

To join the VPAG, contact Chris Okugo, Manager of the Voluntary Plan Group at 916-654-8250 or e-mail [cokugo@edd.ca.gov](mailto:cokugo@edd.ca.gov).

## **13. General Information**

### **13.1. Voluntary Plan Administrative Changes**

Complete the "Voluntary Plan Administrative Changes" form, see Attachment 2, to report changes to your contact person name, phone, and/or fax number, e-mail, and street addresses associated with your plan. Please return the form to the VPG by February 15, 2012, only if you have changes to report. However, during the course of the year at any time, you have administrative or other plan changes please notify us immediately so we can update your VP information.

### **13.2. EDD SDI Questions**

To submit questions and receive a timely response regarding SDI benefits or other program related issues access <https://askedd.edd.ca.gov/asp/frmEDDCOMM.aspx>.

### **13.3. EDD Tax Questions**

Inquiries regarding employer tax issues should be directed to the EDD Tax Branch. The forms that generate most of these questions are the DE 3D, DE 9, DE 16, and DE 938.

For answers to your tax questions, contact the EDD Tax Branch at the toll-free number, 1-888-745-3886 or at 916-464-2500, and ask to speak with the "Auditor of the Day."

### **13.4. EDD Medical Director Contact Information**

For medical questions contact:

Office of the Medical Director  
800 Capitol Mall, MIC 29 B  
P.O. Box 826880  
Sacramento, CA 94280 -0001  
916-654-8621

### **13.5. VP Forms and Publications**

To obtain VP forms and publications visit the VP web page at [http://www.edd.ca.gov/Disability/VP\\_Forms\\_and\\_Publications.htm](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Disability/VP_Forms_and_Publications.htm) or call 916-653-6839.

Forms needed but not found on the VPG website must be ordered from the VPG.
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## 14. Voluntary Plan Group Contacts

VPG staff are always ready to provide you with assistance.

<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail Address &amp; Phone Number</b>	<b>Functions</b>
<b>Chris Okugo</b>	Chris.Okugo@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-8250	<b>Manager, Voluntary Plan Group</b>
<b>Victor Young</b>	Victor.Young@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-9248	<b>Manager, VP Administration Unit</b>
<b>Katy Cavender</b>	Katy.Cavender@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-9172	<b>Manager, VP Audit &amp; Compliance Unit</b>
<b>Connie Anderson</b>	Connie.Anderson@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-9825	<b>Disputed Coverage (DC) Claims</b>
<b>Darci Hoffman</b>	Darci.Hoffman@EDD.ca.gov 916-651-9344	<b>Paid Family Leave (PFL) Claims</b>
<b>James Ellsworth</b>	James.Ellsworth@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-8742	<b>DE 2523 Award Information</b>
<b>Jim Iwamiya</b>	Jim.Iwamiya@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-9279	<b>Technical Assistance (VP Policy &amp; Procedures)</b>
<b>Jaime Briseño</b>	Jaime.Briseno@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-7811	<b>Annual Report of Self- Insured VP Transactions, DE 2568V</b>
<b>Myisha Robertson</b>	Myisha.Robertson@EDD.ca.gov 916-653-7417	<b>VP Audits &amp; Withdrawn Plans</b>
<b>Caroline Owoyele</b>	Caroline.Owoyele@EDD.ca.gov 916-657-5081	<b>New Plan Approvals</b>
<b>Sharisse Kemp</b>	Sharisse.Kemp@EDD.ca.gov 916-654-6777	<b>Security Deposits</b>
<b>Glenn Lomax</b>	Glenn.Lomax@EDD.ca.gov 916-653-2883	<b>GR Letter &amp; VP Administration Reports</b>

- Written inquiries regarding voluntary plans may be addressed to:

Employment Development Department  
 Disability Insurance Branch  
 Voluntary Plan Group, MIC 29VP  
 PO Box 826880  
 Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

## 15. Internet Resources for EDD and California Legislation

To access information on the Internet relating to the EDD and California legislation, use the following Web addresses:

- EDD [www.edd.ca.gov/](http://www.edd.ca.gov/)
- Official California Legislative Information [www.leginfo.ca.gov](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov)
- California Codes (including CUIC) [www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/calaw.html)
- California Code of Regulations [www.oal.ca.gov/](http://www.oal.ca.gov/)
- California State Senate [www.senate.ca.gov/](http://www.senate.ca.gov/)
- California State Assembly <http://assembly.ca.gov/>

### Voluntary Plan 2012 Security Review

(Please do not alter or reformat this worksheet!)

Employer Name \_\_\_\_\_ VP #99- \_\_\_\_\_

California Employer Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Third-Party Administrator, if any \_\_\_\_\_

<b><u>2011 Quarterly Taxable Wages</u></b>	1 <sup>st</sup> Quarter	\$ _____
(from Line D1 on your Quarterly	2 <sup>nd</sup> Quarter	\$ _____
Contribution Return Form DE 3D)	3 <sup>rd</sup> Quarter	\$ _____
	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter	\$ _____
	<b>2011 Total</b>	\$ _____
<b>Total Estimated 2012 Taxable Wages*</b>	<b>2012 Total</b>	\$ _____

\* Reminder: The maximum taxable wage ceiling will be **\$95,585** for 2012

#### Security Required to Continue VP

Total Estimated 2012 Taxable Wages \$ \_\_\_\_\_ x .5 x .010 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(From line above) (Rounded up to next even \$100)

Current Security Deposit \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Adjustment (Increase/Decrease) +/- \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### Return this form whether or not you need to increase your security deposit.

Submit this worksheet and your security increase documents by February 15, 2012, to one of the following addresses, depending on mail or in-person delivery:

#### Mailing Address:

EDD, Disability Insurance Branch  
Voluntary Plan Group  
Attention: Security Analyst  
P.O. Box 826880, MIC 29VP  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

#### In-Person Delivery Address:

EDD, Disability Insurance Branch  
Voluntary Plan Group  
Attention: Security Analyst  
800 Capitol Mall, Room 3137, MIC 29VP  
Sacramento, CA 95814

You may also submit the form via fax at 916-653-6209.

Check the box below that applies:

- Security adjustment is attached.
- Security adjustment will be forwarded to the EDD under separate cover.
- Request to submit cash.
- Request to submit bearer bond.
- No adjustment to the current security amount is needed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
(Print or type your name)

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Please direct questions about this form to the VPG at 916-653-6839.

## Voluntary Plan Administrative Changes

➤ Please complete and return by February 15, 2012, to:

EDD, Disability Insurance Branch  
Voluntary Plan Group, MIC 29 VP  
PO Box 826880  
Sacramento, CA 94280-0001

Related companies may report identical information on one form. Please list each plan number and name.

Employer Name \_\_\_\_\_ VP # 99- \_\_\_\_\_

Employer doing business as (dba) or Alias Name \_\_\_\_\_

California Employer Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Main Contact Person, (usually the benefits manager, human resources manager, or personnel manager) regarding VP issues (VP administration, securities, claims, etc.):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Second Contact Person, regarding VP issues (VP administration, securities, etc.):**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Person for questions on the Annual Report of Self-Insured VP Transactions, DE 2568V:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**Disputed Coverage Referrals Contact Person (claims received by EDD that may be VP liability) should be addressed as follows:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

Form Completed by: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## DIA Questions Raised at the October 2011 VPAG Meeting

- A. Will the DE 2523 submission be a manual process?  
Answer: **Yes**, voluntary plans will have to fill out the electronic DE 2523 online.
- B. Will Disputed Coverage referrals be submitted online?  
Answer: Voluntary plans may choose to receive and submit the *Full Coverage Referral to Voluntary Plan* (DE 5022) electronically in Disability Insurance Automation (DIA). The DE 5022 will include electronic copies of the relevant claim documents for review. Voluntary plans will be able to submit their response to the DE 5022 referral online as well.
- C. Will VP employers have same or equal access as SDI employers?  
Answer: Voluntary Plan employers who register as a voluntary plan are able to access claim information. Voluntary Plan employers who register as an employer will be able to submit employment information online if SDI submits a request for information from the employer. Employers whose employees are covered by the SDI program only verify employment information and have no access to claim information.
- D. Will DIA be piloted before going live?  
Answer: DIA will go through a series of iterations based on quality build testing and internal user acceptance testing. There will be **no pilot** run before the DIA system goes into production.
- E. Will a claimant know if they are covered by SDI or VP when they file a claim and get a receipt from DIA?  
Answer: **No**. The claimant will not have an indication of SDI or VP coverage when filing a claim online. Based on the current design, when a claimant adds their employer information, business rules will run in the background and will send the claim to the VPG if the employer is determined to be a voluntary plan employer.
- F. Will you have an appeal component in DIA?  
Answer: **No**. The VP appeal process will remain as it is today.
- G. Have you tested DIA on all available browsers?  
Answer: DIA will be tested on two of the most recent versions of popular Internet browsers at the time the system is moved to production.
- H. Can we upload data on smart phones?  
Answer: A mobile version of DIA is not being considered at this time.
- I. How much will DIA save the EDD?  
Answer: The EDD expects to save between 150-200 positions annually once DIA is in production and the public begins to use the system on a regular basis.