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Register to Give Coverage on Hazardous Jobs.

Fifty-six of the 73 insurance companies eligible to participate in the state occupational insurance program have accepted terms of the new act which became effective July 1, Joseph D. Cronin, security supervisor of the Illinois industrial commission, reported yesterday. The remaining 17 companies must comply by Sept. 1, he said, or face loss of their licenses to do business in Illinois.

Under the present law all companies writing compensation insurance in this state must join pools which pay off losses resulting from insurance of workers in occupations regarded as too hazardous to be accepted as risks by standard companies. The recent act provides coverage for employers under the occupational diseases act which became effective Oct. 1, 1936.

Employers Seek Aid.

Approximately 60 employers of men in hazardous occupations already have applied to the state industrial commission for help in obtaining insurance, Cronin said. Then of these employers have been assigned to specific insurance companies, he said, and the others will be assigned within the next few weeks.

The recent act calls for the formation of separate pools for stock and mutual companies, Cronin asserted. Under the act the industrial commission can assign high risks to specific companies which retain 30 per cent of premiums collected and pay 70 per cent to the pool which they have joined. All losses are paid by the pool and the 30 per cent retained by the company is compensation for writing and servicing the policies.

Board to Regulate Rates.

Cronin also said that under powers granted by the act the commission can serve as an appellate body for complaints by employers against high rates charged by companies insuring workers in hazardous occupations. Whenever complaints are received, hearings will be held and the rates ordered reduced if found too high, he said.

The new law will permit all employers to obtain insurance regardless of the occupation, Cronin asserted. Employers in industries calling for contact with asbestos, silicon, and concentrated chemicals will find the law particularly beneficial, he indicated, since few such risks would formerly be accepted by most companies except at high rates. No employer is required to carry insurance, he said, but workers for concerns not carrying insurance have recourse at law for occupational diseases as defined within terms of the occupational disease law.