

If, despite fulfilling all other requirements, a worker does not claim their bridging allowance, but remains employed under an employment contract subject to BUAG, both the worker and the company will receive a one-off bridging settlement for the non-utilisation of the bridging allowance.

The bridging settlement is due to workers born in or after 1957. No bridging settlement can be paid out for periods in which the bridging allowance is frozen.

If the payment period of the bridging allowance is not postponed in good time (at least three working days before the original start of the period) by the employer, this reduces the bridging settlement by five percentage points in each case.

A combination of the bridging settlement and the bridging allowance is possible by not applying for the bridging allowance for the maximum time possible, and instead working for the remaining time in an employment relationship subject to BUAG.

AMOUNT OF BRIDGING SETTLEMENT

- The worker is due a one-off settlement payment amounting to 35% of the bridging allowance to which they would otherwise be entitled.
- The company is entitled to a one-off settlement payment amounting to 20% of the bridging allowance to which the worker would otherwise be entitled.

APPLYING FOR A BRIDGING SETTLEMENT

The bridging settlement may be applied for within six months of the worker starting to receive their old-age, corridor or heavy-labour pension. If an application is made by the worker or by the employer, the entitlement of the respective other party will also undergo verification. A bridging settlement will be considered at the time the next supplement payment is due. A bridging settlement for the employer is considered under the following additional conditions.

Customer Service

Tel DW 5000
Fax DW 95 0 99
Mail kundendienst@buak.at

Corporate Customer Service

Tel DW 2000
Fax DW 93 0 99
Mail betriebsbetreuung@buak.at

Corporate Pension Insurance Fund

Tel DW 3000
Fax DW 93 0 99
Mail buak-bvk@buak.at

OPENING HOURS

Vienna
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
8.00 am – 3.00 pm
Wednesday 8.00 am – 6.00 pm
Friday 8.00 am – 12.00 pm

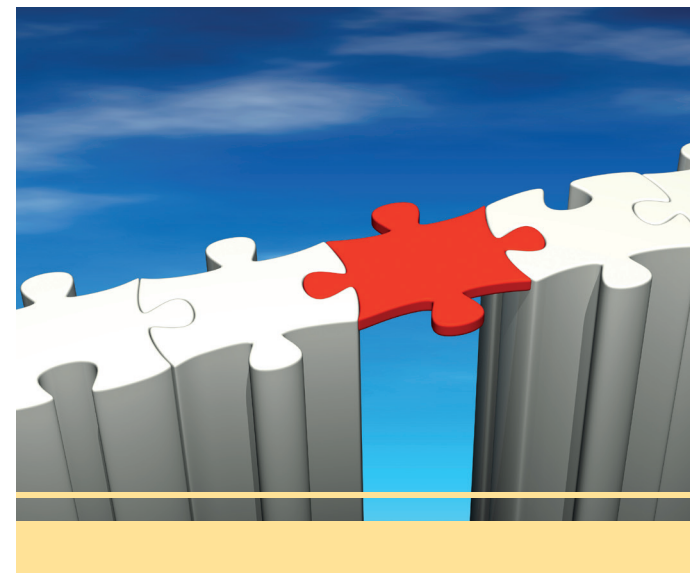
Tyrol, Carinthia and Styria
Monday to Thursday
8.00 am – 3.00 pm
Friday 8.00 am – 12.00 pm

Upper Austria, Salzburg and
Burgenland
Monday to Thursday
8.00 am – 1.00 pm
Friday 8.00 am – 12.00 pm

Vorarlberg
Monday to Friday
8.00 am – 12.00 pm

LEGAL NOTICE
BUAK, Kliebergasse 1A, 1050 Wien

All information, downloads and forms available at: www.buak.at



SUBJECT BRIDGING ALLOWANCE

Bridging allowance

in accordance with the provisions of the
Construction
Workers' Holiday and Severance Pay Act
[Bauarbeiter Urlaubs- und
Abfertigungsgesetz] (BUAG)

Last updated: 1 August 2017



The aim of the bridging allowance provision is to pay long-time construction workers who are unable to remain in employment until retirement a monthly bridging allowance during spells of unemployment until such time as they retire.

ELIGIBILITY

The bridging allowance is available to any worker who:

- is no longer in an employment contract upon reaching the age of 58,
- is entitled to a retirement pension (old-age, corridor or heavy-labour pension) following receipt of the bridging allowance,
- has acquired at least 520 weeks of employment upon reaching the age of 40 in one/several employment contract(s) subject to BUAG (see employee information) and
- has acquired at least 30 weeks of employment upon reaching the age of 56 in one/several employment contract(s) subject to BUAG.
- From 1 January 2017: present evidence/a certificate of at least 10 hours/units of at least 45 minutes of rehabilitation (REHA) procedures.

REHA PROCEDURES

Treatments, training sessions or therapies that ease physical and mental complaints and can typically appear in connection with working in the construction industry are considered to be such procedures.

These complaints especially affect the areas of the musculoskeletal system, the cardiovascular system, the airways, hearing or psychological stress.

Evidence of the following treatments, training sessions or therapies results in a positive assessment of the use of rehabilitation health procedures:

- Physiotherapy
- Back and spine programmes
- Medical massage
- Relaxation training
- Cardiovascular training
- Health-focused gymnastics
- Healing treatments
- Workplace health promotion measures
- Other medically prescribed therapies
- Psychological or psychiatric treatment

AMOUNT AND DURATION

The monthly bridging allowance shall amount to 169.5 times the collectively agreed hourly wage, which is calculated using the worker's predominant classification over the last 52 weeks prior to the termination of their employment. In the case of part-time workers, the amount is calculated on a proportional basis.

Example for a full-time labourer in the mainstream construction industry (predominant hourly wage as per collective agreement (CA wage): € 11.78):

$$€ 11.78 \times 169.5 = € 1996,70 \text{ monthly gross amount}$$

The bridging allowance can be paid for a maximum of 18 months and is paid out in twelve payments per year. (no special payments)



BAUARBEITER-URLAUBS-
UND ABFERTIGUNGSKASSE

FREEZING THE BRIDGING ALLOWANCE

The bridging allowance will be frozen

- in calendar months in which the worker is employed under an employment contract subject to BUAG,
- in calendar months in which the worker receives income from other employment (whether paid employment or self-employment) which exceeds the marginal earnings threshold,
- while the worker is in receipt of holiday pay or compensation for unused annual .

The bridging allowance is stopped in the event of the recipient's retirement or death. In the case of undeclared work, the recipient will lose their entitlement to a bridging allowance and BUAK may reclaim any allowance already paid to the worker.

APPLYING

- 1 The worker must make an application at least two months before the start of payments and submit this to BUAK. The worker may request an application form from BUAK provided they fulfil all the criteria.
- 2 BUAK will then verify in cooperation with the pension insurance establishment that all the necessary requirements have been met (this verification process is the first mandatory step).
- 3 Following approval, the monthly net amount is transferred to the worker's account using the account details provided via bank confirmation. Payment is made in arrears on the first day of the following month.