



About the F23IB declaration

Declaration of employee organisation in relation to an employer's application for approval of a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement to add an employer and employees

About a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement to add an employer and employees

Under section 216C of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#), an employer and its 'affected employees' can jointly vary a cooperative workplace agreement so that an employer that was not covered by the agreement and its affected employees will become covered by the agreement.

The 'affected employees' are employees employed by the employer at the time the variation is made, who will be covered by the agreement if the variation is approved by the Fair Work Commission (Commission).

The variation has no effect unless it is approved by the Commission.

When to use this form

Use this form if:

- a *Form F23I – Application by an employer for approval of a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement to add an employer and employees* has been lodged, and
- you are an officer or authorised employee of an employee organisation that is covered by the agreement, and
- your organisation wants to advise the Commission that it supports or opposes approval of the variation, or disagrees with information contained in the employer's F23IA declaration.

Lodging and serving your completed form

1. **Lodge** this declaration with the Commission **within 14 days** after the employer serves you with its *F23IA - Employer's declaration in support of an employer's application for approval of a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement to add an employer and employees*.

Lodge by email, post, or in person at the [Commission office](#) in your state or territory.

2. **As soon as practicable** after lodging, you must **serve a copy** of all documents lodged with the Commission on each employer and each other employee organisation covered by the agreement.

You can serve documents several ways, including by email, express post or registered post.

Where to get help

Commission staff & resources

Commission staff cannot provide legal advice. However, staff can give you information on:

- Commission processes
- how to make an application to the Commission
- how to fill out forms
- where to find useful documents such as legislation and decisions
- other organisations that may be able to assist you.

The Commission's website www.fwc.gov.au also contains a range of information that may assist.

Throughout this form



This icon appears throughout the form. It indicates information to help you complete the form.

Legal or other representation

Representation is where another person (such as a lawyer or paid agent, or an employee of an employer organisation) speaks or acts on a person's behalf, or assists a person in certain other ways in relation to a matter before the Commission. There is no requirement to be represented at the Commission.

There are some restrictions on representation by a lawyer or paid agent.

Generally, a person must give notice to the Commission (by lodging a Form F53 – Notice that a person: (a) has a lawyer or paid agent; or (b) will seek permission for a lawyer or paid agent to participate in a conference or hearing) and seek permission from the Commission Member dealing with the matter if they wish to have a lawyer or paid agent represent them by participating in a conference or a hearing.

Apart from participating in a conference or hearing, a person's lawyer or paid agent can represent them without permission, unless the Commission decides otherwise. For example, the lawyer or paid agent can prepare and lodge written applications, responses and submissions with the Commission, and communicate in writing with the Commission and other parties to the matter on the person's behalf.

The requirement to give notice and seek permission for a lawyer or paid agent to participate in a conference or hearing, does not apply if the lawyer or paid agent is:

- an employee or officer of the person
- a bargaining representative that is representing the person, or
- an employee or officer of an employee or employer organisation, or an association of employers or a peak council, that is representing the person.

Rule 13(2) of the [Fair Work Commission Rules 2024](#) sets out further exceptions to the requirement to give notice and seek permission.

For more information about representation by lawyers and paid agents, see section 596 of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#), rules 11, 12, 13 and 14 of the [Fair Work Commission Rules 2024](#) and the Commission's [practice note on representation by lawyers and paid agents](#).

Glossary of common terms

Applicant – This is the person or organisation that is making the application.

Lawyer – This is a person who is admitted to the legal profession by a Supreme Court of a State or Territory.

Paid agent – In relation to a matter before the Commission, is an agent (other than a bargaining representative) who charges or receives a fee to represent a person in the matter.

Party – A party is an Applicant, a Respondent or another person or organisation involved in a matter or case that is brought to the Commission.

Respondent – The person or organisation responding to an application made by an Applicant.

Service – Serving a document means giving a copy of the document to a person or organisation, usually to the other party to the matter. You can serve a document in a number of ways, including by email, express or registered post, or in person. Part 5 of Chapter 1, rule 44 and Schedule 1 of the [Fair Work Commission Rules 2024](#) deal with service.

Privacy

The Commission collects the information (including personal information) provided to it in this form in order to deal with the application for approval of variation to the agreement. The information will be included on the case file, and the Commission may disclose this information to the other parties to this matter and to other persons. For more details of the Commission's collection, use and disclosure of this information, please see the [Privacy notice](#) for this form, or ask for a hard copy to be provided to you.



Remove this cover sheet and keep it for future reference – it contains useful information.

Form F23IB – Declaration of employee organisation in relation to an employer’s application for approval of a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement to add an employer and employees

[Fair Work Act 2009](#), section 216CA, Fair Work Commission Rules 2024, rule 40, rule 44 and Schedule 1

This is a declaration in relation to an application to the Fair Work Commission under section 216CA of the [Fair Work Act 2009](#) for approval of a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement made under section 216C of the Fair Work Act.

I,	
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[insert name of person making the declaration]

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[insert postal address of person making the declaration]

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[insert suburb]

[insert State or Territory]

[insert postcode]

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[insert occupation of person making the declaration]

declare that:

- 1. I am an officer or authorised employee of the following employee organisation (the Union):**

Name of Union	
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- 2. This declaration relates to an application by the following employer (the Employer) under section 216CA of the Fair Work Act 2009 for approval of a variation of the following cooperative workplace agreement (the Agreement) having the effect that the Employer and its affected employees will be covered by the Agreement:**

Form F231B – Declaration of employee organisation in relation to an employer’s application for approval of a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement to add an employer and employees



Write the name exactly as it appears in the title clause of the agreement and include the Agreement ID/Code Number if known.

Name of Employer	
Name of Agreement	

3. Is the Union covered by the Agreement?

- Yes
- No

4. Does the Union want to advise the Fair Work Commission (the Commission) that it supports or opposes approval of the variation by the Commission?

- Yes
- No

5. If you answered yes to question 4 – Does the Union support approval of the variation by the Commission?

- Yes
- No

If you answered **No** – Specify the grounds on which the Union opposes approval of the variation, using numbered paragraphs:

Form F231B – Declaration of employee organisation in relation to an employer’s application for approval of a variation of a cooperative workplace agreement to add an employer and employees

6. Does the Union want to advise the Commission that it disagrees with one or more statements in the Employer’s declaration in support of the variation?


- Yes
- No

If you answered **Yes** – Provide details of the Employer’s declaration:

Name of person who made the Employer’s declaration	
Date of Employer’s declaration	

7. If you answered Yes to question 6 – Set out the statements that the Union disagrees with and state why the Union disagrees with them, using numbered paragraphs:

Attach additional pages if necessary.

Signature		Date:	
	<p>Giving false or misleading information is a serious offence.</p> <p>A person who knowingly gives false or misleading information or knowingly produces a false or misleading document in relation to an application for variation of an enterprise agreement is guilty of an offence, the punishment for which is imprisonment for up to 12 months - see s.137.1 and s.137.2 of the <i>Criminal Code</i>.</p>		
PLEASE RETAIN A COPY OF THIS FORM FOR YOUR OWN RECORDS			