

**OVERSEAS CONTACT**

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THE SICKNESS AND DISABILITY INSURANCE

Dear Madam, dear Sir,

Chapter IV of the Belgian Act of 17 July 1963 on the overseas social security provides amongst others for the attribution of a monthly allowance to the insured who stops her professional activity during a period of maternity leave.

The *prenatal* leave starts at the request of the person insured *at the earliest 7 weeks before the expected date of delivery.* The insured issues for this purpose to the Department a medical certificate stating that she normally has to give birth at the end of the maternity leave request for. If the birth takes place after the date provided for by the physician, the prenatal leave is prolonged up to the real date of birth. (*)

The *postnatal* leave extends over the period of *8 weeks following the birth;* this period can be prolonged by a period corresponding to the one during which the insured has continued working from the seventh week prior to the birth. (*)

At the birth of the child an extract from the register of birth certificates has to be sent.

The Act of 17 July 1963 does not provide for the allocation of a birth premium (maternity allowance), parental leave, paternity leave or breastfeeding leave.

(*) Application of art. 91 of the Act of 29 April 1996 containing social provisions, Belgian Official Gazette of 30 April 1996, applicable from 1 May 1996 onwards.