



COMMONWEALTH AUTOMOBILE REINSURERS

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RALPH A. IANNACO
PRESIDENT

**SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA ITEM
TO MEMBERS OF THE MAIP STEERING COMMITTEE**

FOR THE MEETING OF:

Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 10:00 a.m.

MSC

10.11 Assigned Risk Company Performance Standards

The Ad Hoc Violations/Penalties Committee at its June 8, 2010 meeting has recommended amending Assigned Risk Performance Standards by clarifying that the requirement concerning Certificates of Insurance includes SR-22 filings, and by adding a Standard that requires an ARC to recalculate premium within fifteen days of receiving a determination that validates disputed premium. Additionally, the Standards have been renumbered to be consistent with recommendations concerning penalty determination. Revised Performance Standards are attached for the Committee's consideration. (Docket #MSC10.11, Exhibit #1)

PAMELA WALLACE
Vice President - Residual Market Services

Attachment

Boston, Massachusetts
June 9, 2010

June 8, 2010

ASSIGNED RISK COMPANY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Category I

A. Claims Performance

Claim adjustment practices and procedures shall be in accordance with the established Performance Standards and shall correspond with those followed for voluntarily written business.

B. Certificates of Insurance

The ARC shall, at the request of the named insured or producer of record, issue certificates of insurance, which shall include SR-22 filings. Such certificates or filings must be provided within four business days after receipt of a request for same.

C. Cancellation – Insufficient Down Payment

The ARC may not cancel a policy for non-payment of premium if such premium deficiency is the result of an insufficient down payment. The ARC shall bill the policyholder for the amount of the deficiency, or otherwise incorporate the amount in future premium installments. If the policyholder fails to pay the minimum amount due, then the ARC may issue a statutory notice of cancellation for non-payment of premium.

D. Cancellation - Misrepresentation

To prevent wrongful cancellation, if during the underwriting process an ARC discovers third-party information that appears inconsistent with the information provided on the application for insurance, the ARC shall 1) initiate an inquiry either directly with the insured or through the producer of record to resolve any factual errors; and 2) obtain the insured's consent before issuing a notice of adjustment to the down payment and/or total premium. If the inquiry is made directly to the applicant the producer of record shall be furnished a copy.

If the resolution of an apparent inconsistency results in a change to information used to calculate premium, the ARC shall charge an appropriate premium based upon the additional or corrected information, and adjust the applicant's next bill accordingly. If however, the applicant is unwilling to consent to the modification, and the ARC has independent evidence that the applicant had the actual intent to deceive or the material misrepresentation increases the ARC's risk of loss, the ARC may cancel the policy as provided by Massachusetts law.

E. Reinstatement

If the reason for a cancellation or non-renewal has been remedied prior to the effective date, then the ARC shall reinstate the policy or issue the renewal.

F. Disputed Premium Recalculation

The ARC shall issue an endorsement recalculating premium within 15 days from the receipt of a determination validating a premium dispute filed in accordance with ARC Performance Standard J – Premium Disputes.

Category II

G. Policy Issuance

The Assigned Risk Company (ARC) must issue a policy within 15 calendar days of the receipt of a completed application and any supplemental information needed to verify and appropriately calculate the premium for the coverages requested.

H. Endorsements

Any endorsement to an assigned policy, which includes all information necessary for processing, shall be issued within 15 calendar days of receipt.

I. Return Premiums

Return premium checks must be mailed within 30 calendar days of the effective date of the cancellation or endorsement generating the return.

J. Policy Changes

If policy changes are mailed directly to the insured, copies must be furnished to the Assigned Risk Producer.

K. Premium Disputes

The ARC shall reply within 15 calendar days to letters disputing the premium charged.

L. Commissions

Commission shall be paid no less frequently than monthly and shall be paid within 15 calendar days after the close of the month in which the commission was credited to the producer's account. Each payment will include a commission statement that contains the policy number, named insured, and amount of premium on which the commission has been calculated.

M. Cancellation Notices

A copy of each cancellation notice issued by an ARC shall be furnished to the producer of record.