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OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION

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KEVIN M. MCCARTY  
COMMISSIONER

REVISED WORKERS' COMPENSATION  
RATES AND RATING VALUES AS  
CONTAINED IN THE FILING SUBMITTED  
BY: NATIONAL COUNCIL ON  
COMPENSATION INSURANCE

Case No. 119999-11

ORDER ON RATE FILING

On August 18, 2011, the **NATIONAL COUNCIL ON COMPENSATION INSURANCE ("NCCI")** filed, pursuant to Section 627.091, Florida Statutes, Revised Workers' Compensation Rates and Rating Values (hereinafter the "Filing") for consideration and review by the **FLORIDA OFFICE OF INSURANCE REGULATION ("OFFICE")**. The Filing proposed an 8.9 percent increase in the overall rate level, to be effective January 1, 2012, on new and renewal policies.

The **OFFICE**, having concluded that it would be in the public interest to hold a public hearing pursuant to Section 627.101, Florida Statutes, for the purpose of allowing the public an opportunity to speak or present evidence regarding the matters contained in the Filing, and by doing so assist the **OFFICE** in determining whether the Filing meets the applicable requirements of law, held a public hearing ("Hearing") on October 11, 2011, in room 401 of the Senate Office Building in Tallahassee, Florida.

The Commissioner of the Office of Insurance Regulation, having considered the Filing and additional information submitted by **NCCI**, the supporting data, oral and written statements presented at the Hearing, rebuttal testimony subsequent to the Hearing, the

analysis by the staff of the **OFFICE**, and being otherwise fully advised in the premises finds:

1. The Commissioner of the Office of Insurance Regulation has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of these proceedings.

2. Notice of the Hearing was published in Vol. 37, No. 36, of The Florida Administrative Weekly on September 9, 2011, on page 2771. Notice was also sent directly to **NCCI** and to other persons requesting to be notified of such events.

3. Some of the proposed changes in the Filing have not been justified.

4. Since **NCCI** began including trend in its workers' compensation filings, it has displayed the on-level developed loss ratio trends based on fitting the data to either a linear or exponential curve. Until a few years ago, this loss ratio trend was the primary basis and for many years the only basis for **NCCI's** trend selection. In the recent filings, **NCCI** expanded the trend section of the filings by including not only the loss ratio data, but also data showing frequency and severity. In this Filing **NCCI** uses the year to year average change in the loss ratio to determine both the long term trend and the short term trend. The loss ratio trend data in the Filing clearly shows a downward trend in loss ratios for indemnity, ranging from an annual trend of -3.1% to -8.9%, using the policy year data for the latest 5 years through the latest 8 years for Standard Coverage. The loss ratio trend data in the Filing for medical shows a range of values from -1.9% to -5.6%. The trend data in the Filing reflects losses that have been adjusted to the current level using the **NCCI** initial estimate of the effect of the 2003 reforms. If the actual impact of the reforms is greater than the initial estimate, then the use of the data in the Filing would produce trends that are too low. **NCCI** states "These selected trends give majority weight to the long term trends while giving some weight to the recent

flattening.” The **NCCI** selected trends of -3.0% for indemnity and -1.0% for medical appear to be reasonable.

5. The internal rate of return model used by **NCCI** in selecting the profit and contingencies factor of +2.5% includes anticipated policyholder dividends of 5.0%. Florida workers’ compensation rates have not previously included an explicit policyholder dividends provision greater than zero. Further, the failure to explicitly load an amount for policyholder dividends into the rates has not precluded insurers from paying policyholder dividends in Florida. Thus, policyholders in Florida have received substantial dividends without the explicit inclusion of a provision for policyholder dividends greater than zero.

6. Policyholder dividends are, by definition, a non-guaranteed return of profits, which means the payment of policyholder dividends is left strictly to the discretion of the insurers. In order for a policyholder to be eligible for a policyholder dividend, the insurance carrier files a participating endorsement that is attached to and becomes part of the policy. Many insurance carriers do not intend to pay policyholder dividends and have not filed such endorsements. Of the 251 insurance carriers actively writing workers’ compensation in Florida in calendar year 2010, only 94 carriers paid policyholder dividends. Thus, if the rates are explicitly loaded for policyholder dividends, some employers will pay higher rates without any possibility of receiving a dividend, so that other employers can receive a policyholder dividend. This loading would likely result in unfairly discriminatory rates.

7. Pursuant to Actuarial Standards of Practice 29, “[w]hen the actuary determines that policyholder dividends are a reasonably expected expense and are associated with the risk transfer, the actuary may include a provision in the rate for the

expected amount of policyholder dividends.” **NCCI** has not demonstrated that for Florida workers’ compensation, policyholder dividends are a reasonably expected expense and are associated with the risk transfer. Nor has **NCCI** demonstrated that in accordance with Actuarial Standards of Practice 29, they have considered the following: the companies’ dividend payment history, the current dividend policy or practice, whether dividends are related to loss experience, the capitalization of the companies, and other considerations affecting the payment of dividends. Further, **NCCI** did not address these factors at the Hearing or in the Filing.

8. **NCCI** has estimated the investment yield at 2.774%, a yield that is almost an historic low. This estimate is significantly below the average representative portfolio yields over the recent past and below expected yields in the near future as economic performance continues to improve.

9. Based on Paragraphs 5., 6., 7., and 8. above, the input parameters to the **NCCI** internal rate of return model for policyholder dividends, and investment yield are not justified for this Filing. However, **NCCI** has selected a +2.5% profit and contingencies factor despite their indicated profit and contingencies factor being +12.66% for standard coverage and +13.28% for large deductible. Substituting more appropriate numbers for the policyholder dividends, and investment yield shows that the proposed +2.5% profit and contingencies factor is justified for this Filing. The use of a +2.5% profit and contingencies factor in the Filing adequately reflects investment income on unearned premium and loss reserves as required by Sections 627.072 and 627.215(8), Florida Statutes. The proposed changes in “F” classification premiums also use a +2.5% profit and contingencies factor. Thus, the proposed overall increase for the

"F" classifications adequately reflects investment income on unearned premium and loss reserves as required by Sections 627.072 and 627.215(8), Florida Statutes.

10. The proposed rate for Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services providers, classification code 7705, uses only one year of actual experience instead of the normal five years because this is a new classification. Based on the first year of experience, this class will develop 100% credibility or at least substantial credibility over time as additional years of experience are added. The rate for this classification code should not be adversely affected by the national relativity in this Filing.

11. At the October 11, 2011 Hearing, the President of the Florida Roofing, Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors Association (FRSA) testified that the FRSA's Board of Directors were in agreement that the proposed roofing rate of \$16.31 is too low. The FRSA Board believes that a rate of \$16.31 would make it very difficult to get workers' compensation coverage for the roofing industry. The FRSA Board believes that rate stability for workers' compensation coverage for roofing is very important. The FRSA Board of Directors recommends that there be no further decreases in the roofing rate and that the roofing rate for this Filing be maintained at the current rate of \$17.10.

12. At the October 11, 2011 Hearing, an issue was raised by interested parties concerning the adverse impact the practice of physicians dispensing repackaged drugs has on the workers' compensation system. There was testimony and evidence submitted by the **NCCI** that the physician dispensed prescription drugs as a portion of all prescription drugs for workers' compensation has increased in Florida from 9% to 50% from 2003 to 2009 and the average price of drugs dispensed by physicians has increased from \$55 to \$180 during this same period. **NCCI** testified at the hearing that workers' compensation rates would be reduced 2.5% if the Florida Legislature

addressed the markup of repackaged drugs. This 2.5% is based on 2009 experience and may be even higher once the 2010 and later data is available. **NCCI** also testified that this 2.5% reduction would result in savings of \$62 million to the overall workers' compensation costs in Florida.

**WHEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing and being otherwise duly advised in the premises, it is hereby ORDERED:

The Filing of **NCCI** is hereby DISAPPROVED. The Filing will be approved provided the Filing is amended to comply with all of the following and such amendments to the Filing are filed as soon as practicable.

A. The +2.5 percent (+2.5%) allowance for profit and contingencies for the proposed rates in the Filing, and identified in Exhibit II-A of the Filing, is approved. The profit and contingencies factor on Exhibit II-A shall also apply to the "F" classifications.

B. The statewide overall rate level change for the Filing for new and renewal policies for other than the "F" classifications shall be +8.9 percent (+8.9%), effective January 1, 2012,

C. The statewide overall rate level change in the Filing for "F" classifications for new and renewal policies shall be adjusted to reflect a maximum change by classification of +30% and a minimum change of 0% effective January 1, 2012.

D. There shall be no change in the classification rate for roofing (code 5551).

E. The rate for classification code 7705 shall be calculated using the actual experience and the complement of credibility shall be based entirely on the underlying pure premium with zero weight for the indicated by national relativity.

F. The proposed change in the maximum minimum premium has not been justified and is disapproved.

G. **NCCI** shall list and explain each and every change in the proposed manual pages, including the experience rating plan manual and the retrospective rating plan manual. These shall be shown in the summary exhibit and described by an explanatory memorandum.


H. **NCCI** shall provide to the **OFFICE** a report for each quarter of calendar year 2012 showing the average intrastate experience modification factor for policies with effective dates in the year 2012 and for the same policies with effective dates for a comparable period in calendar year 2011. The report for each quarter shall be filed within 30 days of the end of the quarter. Thus, the first report will be due on May 1, 2012 for the first quarter of calendar year 2012. In addition to the quarterly report, the **NCCI** shall provide a monthly report to the **OFFICE** of the average intrastate mod for the policies effective during the month. This monthly report shall be filed with the **OFFICE** on the first day of the following month. Thus, the January 2012 report will be due February 1<sup>st</sup>.

To meet statutory timeframes for a January 1, 2012 effective date, **NCCI** shall file the necessary amendments to the Filing as may be required to implement the terms of this Order as soon as practicable but no later than October 31, 2011. No rate change shall be implemented until such amendments are properly filed and final approval is issued by the **OFFICE**.

By making a filing to comply with this order, NCCI waives any right to any further proceedings and authorizes the OFFICE to enter a final order on the Filing.

DONE and ORDERED this 24<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011.



  
Kevin M. McCarty, Commissioner  
Office of Insurance Regulation

Copies furnished to:

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## NOTICE OF RIGHTS

Pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57, Florida Statutes and Rule Chapter 28-106, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), you may have a right to request a proceeding to contest this action by the Office of Insurance Regulation (hereinafter the "Office"). You may request a proceeding by filing a Petition. Your Petition for a proceeding must be in writing and must be filed with the General Counsel acting as the Agency Clerk, Office of Insurance Regulation. If served by U.S. Mail the Petition should be addressed to the Florida Office of Insurance Regulation at 612 Larson Building, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-4206. If Express Mail or hand-delivery is utilized, the Petition should be delivered to 612 Larson Building, 200 East Gaines Street, Tallahassee, Florida 32399-0300. The written Petition must be received by, and filed in the Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the twenty-first (21) day after your receipt of this notice. Unless your Petition challenging this action is received by the Office within twenty-one (21) days from the date of the receipt of this notice, the right to a proceeding shall be deemed waived. Mailing the response on the twenty-first day will not preserve your right to a hearing.

If a proceeding is requested and there is no dispute of material fact the provisions of Section 120.57(2), Florida Statutes may apply. In this regard you may submit oral or written evidence in opposition to the action taken by this agency or a written statement challenging the grounds upon which the agency has relied. While a hearing is normally not required in the absence of a dispute of fact, if you feel that a hearing is necessary one may be conducted in Tallahassee, Florida or by telephonic conference call upon your request.

If you dispute material facts which are the basis for this agency's action you may request a formal adversarial proceeding pursuant to Sections 120.569 and 120.57(1), Florida Statutes. If you request this type of proceeding, the request must comply with all of the requirements of Rule Chapter 28-106.201, F.A.C., must demonstrate that your substantial interests have been affected by this agency's action, and contain:

- a) A statement of all disputed issues of material fact. If there are none, the petition must so indicate;
- b) A concise statement of the ultimate facts alleged, including the specific facts the petitioner contends warrant reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action;
- c) A statement of the specific rules or statutes the petitioner contends require reversal or modification of the agency's proposed action; and
- d) A statement of the relief sought by the petitioner, stating precisely the action petitioner wishes the agency to take with respect to the agency's proposed action.

These proceedings are held before a State Administrative Law Judge of the Division of Administrative Hearings. Unless the majority of witnesses are located elsewhere, the Office will request that the hearing be conducted in Tallahassee.

In some instances, you may have additional statutory rights than the ones described herein.

Failure to follow the procedure outlined with regard to your response to this notice may result in the request being denied. Any request for administrative proceeding received prior to the date of this notice shall be deemed abandoned unless timely renewed in compliance with the guidelines as set out above.