

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO
Office of the Commissioner of Insurance
P. O. Box 3508 'S' - Old San Juan Sta.
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00902

Circular Letter No. S-5-676-76
May 20, 1976

TO ALL INSURERS AUTHORIZED TO TRANSACT
INSURANCE IN PUERTO RICO

Dear Sirs:

As you know, section 11.140(2) of the Insurance Code of Puerto Rico, as amended by Act No. 98 approved June 5, 1973, requires that every policy issued for delivery in Puerto Rico shall be offered written in Spanish and shall be issued in English at the option of the prospective insured.

Act No. 32, approved May 10, 1976, among other things, amended section 11.140(6) of the Insurance Code of Puerto Rico to give the Commissioner of Insurance discretionary authority to extend for an additional period, not to exceed one year, the time within which an insurer must comply with the aforementioned language requirement, which would otherwise become effective on June 5, 1976. This discretionary authority will be exercised on an individual company basis, and only after the insurer has convinced the Commissioner that it needs additional time.

Nevertheless, to assure that insurers will have sufficient time to apply for an extension, we are hereby granting all insurers an extension until July 31, 1976.

Each insurer which needs additional time beyond July 31, 1976, in order to comply with the Spanish language requirement, must apply for and receive an extension from our Office prior to said date. A written application for extension of time may be filed in the form of a letter and must set forth the following:

1. A list of the policies identified by form number and kind of insurance, (i.e., life disability, property, etc., as defined in chapter IV of our Insurance Code) that the insurer has filed or intends to file in Spanish for approval by the Commissioner of Insurance;

2. The current status of each such policy with regard to the Spanish language requirement: for example, state whether the policy has been "approved", "filed and pending approval" is "in the process of translation", etc; and

3. The reason why additional time is needed in order to comply with the Spanish language requirement.

Upon determining that sufficient grounds exist for the concession of additional time, the Commissioner of Insurance will grant an extension for a period of three months. However, additional three months periods will be granted if the insurer applies therefor before the expiration of the previous extension and only if the need for additional time is justified in the application and if the Commissioner is convinced that substantial progress has been made since the date the previous extension was granted.

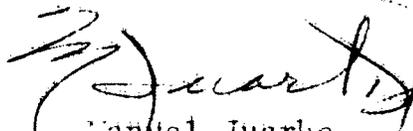
An extension of time will allow the insurer, during the period for which the extension is granted, to continue offering in English those policy forms which have already been approved.

Please bear in mind that on and after August 1, 1976, every policy to be issued in Puerto Rico must be offered written in Spanish and shall be issued in English at the option of the prospective insured, unless:

1. The insurer has been granted an extension of time by the Commissioner of Insurance; or

2. The policy offered for delivery in Puerto Rico has been exempted from the Spanish language requirement either by statute or by regulation adopted pursuant to the provisions of section 11.140(2) of our Insurance Code, as amended by Act No. 32, approved May 10, 1976.

Cordially yours,



Manuel Juarbe
Commissioner of Insurance