March 31, 2020

CIRCULAR LETTER NO.: CC-2020-1962-D

TO ALL INSURERS, HEALTH SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS, PRODUCERS, AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVES, GENERAL AGENTS, SOLICITORS, ATTORNEYS-IN-FACT, INSURANCE CONSULTANTS, INSURANCE ADJUSTERS, REINSURANCE INTERMEDIARIES, AND HOLDERS OF PROVISIONAL LICENSES THAT ARE AUTHORIZED TO TRANSACT INSURANCE BUSINESS IN PUERTO RICO.

RE: AMENDMENT TO CIRCULAR LETTER NO. 1960-D; EXTENSION OF TERMS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF CLOSURE OF OPERATIONS DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19).

Dear Sirs and Madams:

Due to the emergency situation that exists in Puerto Rico arising from the propagation of the coronavirus (COVID-19), on March 15, 2020 the Governor of Puerto Rico, Honorable Wanda Vázquez-Garced, issued Executive Order 2020-023, to order the closing of government operations until March 30, 2020, with the exception of essential services. Subsequently, in view of the continued risk of contagion and propagation of e COVID-19 on the island and following the recommendations of the Medical Advisory Executive Committee for COVID-19, on March 30, 2020, through Executive Order 2020-029 the Honorable Governor extended the closure of government operations from March 31 until April 12, 2020.

In view of this, we are notifying that filing the annual report on the financial situation of our licensees, the filing date of which had been extended until April 15, 2020, is extended for fifteen (15) calendar days following the date on which resumption of government operations is provided by Executive Order. Notwithstanding the foregoing, insurers and health services organizations must file an interim financial report as of December 31, 2019, which shall include the balance sheet, Income Statement, Cash Flow, and RBC. This interim report shall be filed on or before April 15, 2020, at the following email addresses: gsantiago@ocs.pr.gov and mmirabal@ocs.pr.gov.

 Likewise, terms are also suspended for answering a request for information, orders for investigations and audits, and for filing annual reports from producers, general agents, and authorized representatives or any other report that is required under the Insurance Code, which shall be filed within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date for resuming government operations as provided by Executive Order.
In addition, the effect of licenses, continuing education requirements for licensees, and fees to be paid by licensees for any of the different kinds of license issued by the Commissioner of Insurance, that expire on or before April 30, 2020 or during the closure of government operations, will be extended until May 30, 2020. We urge you to use the online platforms that are available to take your continuing education courses.

With regards to examinations for applicants for an insurance license who were unable to take the examination during the period when operations were closed, an appointment for the new date for taking the examination will be notified to all applicants by this Office. In the case of persons who have a provisional license that is currently in effect and were unable to take the examination on the scheduled day due to the closure of operations, said license will continue to be in effect until the new appointment date.

It is further notified that the tacit approval date for all rating files or policy forms that would have been approved between March 16 and April 12, 2020, both dates included, or while government operations are closed, will be extended for an additional 30 calendar days from the date on which the resumption of government operations is provided by Executive Order. No policy forms or rate filings that may have been tacitly approved during these dates will enter into effect until the 30 additional calendar days have elapsed or approval or denial is notified before such date.

Likewise, it is notified that scheduled adjudicatory hearings and filings of pleadings with a deadline on or before April 12, 2020 or for as long as the closure of government operations persists, are postponed until notice of a new date.

Very truly yours,

s/Rafael Cestero-Lopategui, CIC
Chief Deputy Commissioner of Insurance