

**Ins 3.12 Membership fees and policy fees.** (1) **PURPOSE.** This rule is intended to implement and interpret section 204.405, Wis. Stats., consistent with the purpose and scope of the applicable insurance statutes.

(2) **DEFINITION.** (a) Automobile coverage means the insurance against any loss, expense, and liability resulting from the ownership, maintenance, or use of any automobile or other vehicle except aircraft.

(b) Initial membership fee is the fee charged for any automobile coverage for membership in an insurance company at the time the policyholder first procures insurance from the insurance company.

(c) Policy fee is the fee charged for issuing an insurance policy.

(3) **ACCOUNTING.** Every initial membership fee, policy fee, or other similar charge for any automobile coverage shall be considered as additional premium for the first policy term subsequent to the collection or payment thereof: (a) For all annual statement purposes, including all summaries, tabulations, schedules, and exhibits;

(b) For recording and reporting in accordance with the uniform classification of expense for fire, marine, and casualty and surety insurance;

(c) For tax purposes;

(d) And shall be subject to all statutory requirements for reserves and financial statements;

(e) And reasonable allocation consistent with the company's method of operation for renewal business shall be made to each coverage for which there is a premium charge contained in the policy.

(4) **INSURANCE RATES AND PREMIUM CHARGES.** (a) Every initial membership fee, policy fee, or other similar charge for any automobile coverage shall be considered as additional premium for the first policy term subsequent to the collection or payment thereof and:

1. Shall be reasonable, equitable, and consistent with the company's method of operation;

2. Shall not discriminate unfairly between risks or classes;

3. Reasonable allocation shall be made to each coverage in accordance with the statistical plans applicable for the specific coverages contained in the policy;

4. In event of cancellation within the first policy term, shall be subject to return to at least the same extent as premium;

5. The conditions applicable to such fees shall be stated in the policy.

(b) Each and every consideration for the policy, including initial membership fee, policy fee, or other similar charge, and the premium, must be stated in the policy.

(c) With respect to the same kind or class of automobile coverage, an insurer may operate only on a plan which is limited to the use of the conventional premium method or to the use of an initial membership fee or policy fee or other similar charge.

(d) No policy fee or other similar charge shall be charged for renewal or extension of an insurance policy by endorsement or certificate.

**History:** Cr. Register, February, 1958, No. 26, eff. 3-1-58.

Register, June, 1960, No. 54

**Ins 3.13 Individual accident and sickness insurance.** (1) **PURPOSE.** This rule implements and interprets applicable statutes for the purpose of establishing procedures and requirements to expedite the review and approval of individual accident and sickness policies permitted by section 204.31, Wis. Stats., and franchise type accident and sickness policies permitted by section 204.32 (1), Wis. Stats. The requirements in subsections (2), (3), (4), (5), and (6) are to be followed in substance, and wording other than that described may be used provided it is not less favorable to the insured or beneficiary.

(2) **POLICY PROVISIONS.** (a) If a policy is not to insure against sickness losses resulting from conditions in existence prior to the effective date of coverage, or in existence prior to a specified period after such effective date, the policy by its terms shall indicate that it covers sickness contracted and commencing (or beginning, or originating, or first manifested or words of similar import) after such effective date or after such specified period. Wording shall not be used that requires the cause of the condition or sickness, as distinguished from the condition or sickness itself, to originate after such effective date or such specified period. (Note: It is understood that "sickness" as used herein means the condition or disease from which the disability or loss results.) Subsection (2) (a) shall not apply to nor prohibit the exclusion from coverage of a disease or physical condition by name or specific description.

(b) Where any "specified period" referred to in subsection (2) (a) exceeds 30 days, it shall apply to the occurrence of loss and not to the contracting or commencement of sickness after such period.

(c) A policy, other than a non-cancellable policy or a non-cancellable and guaranteed renewable policy or a guaranteed renewable policy, shall set forth the conditions under which the policy may be renewed, either by: A *brief description* of the policy's renewal conditions, or a *separate statement* referring to the policy's renewal conditions, or a separate appropriately captioned *renewal provision* appearing on or commencing on the first page.

1. The *brief description*, if used to meet the foregoing requirement, shall be printed, in type more prominent than that used in the policy's text, at the top or bottom of the policy's first page and on its filing back, if any, and shall describe its renewal conditions in one of the following ways: "Renewal Subject to Consent of Company", "Renewal Subject to Company Consent", "Renewal at Option of Company", "Renewal at Option of Company as Stated in \_\_\_\_\_" (refer to appropriate policy provision), or "Renewal May be Refused as Stated in \_\_\_\_\_" (refer to appropriate policy provision). A company may submit other wording, subject to approval by the commissioner, which it believes is equally clear or more definite as to subject matter.

2. The *separate statement*, if used to meet the foregoing requirement, shall be printed, in type more prominent than that used in the policy's text, at the top or bottom of the policy's first page and on its filing back, if any, and shall describe its renewal conditions in one of the following ways: "Renewal Subject to Consent of Company", "Renewal Subject to Company Consent", "Renewal at Option of Company", "Renewal at Option of Company as Stated in \_\_\_\_\_" (refer to appropriate policy provision), or "Renewal May be Refused as Stated in \_\_\_\_\_" (refer to appropriate policy provision).