

AGENT SERVICES

TO: All Public Adjusters
All Public Adjusting Companies

FROM: Etta Maynard

DATE: October 20, 2009

RE: Public Adjuster State Fee Collection Changes

The North Carolina Department of Insurance is committed to improving efficiency by streamlining insurance licensing processes through utilization of the technology and services developed by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and their business affiliates. Based on this, the Agent Services Division has made changes to the state fee collection process for public adjusters which impact both the initial license application fee and the annual license fee. In addition, effective January 30, 2010, Agent Services Division will no longer require an appointment to a public adjusting company for public adjuster licenses.

INITIAL LICENSING APPLICATION

Currently, a \$50 registration fee is paid at the time of license application submission. Upon issuance of the public adjuster license, a \$75 license fee is due for the current license period. This \$75 license fee is billed in the next quarterly billing by the Agent Services Division to the public adjusting company for the newly licensed public adjuster representing their company.

Effective January 30, 2010, the public adjuster fee collection will be changed to require a total of \$125 to be paid at the time of application submission. The registration fee is \$50 and the license fee is \$75 for a total of \$125 for public adjusters. This \$125 fee will be collected with application submission to the Agent Services Division, application through the National Insurance Producer Registry (NIPR), and by our resident licensing vendor Pearson VUE at the time of examination. Agent Services Division will no longer bill public adjusting companies the \$75 license fee for each newly licensed adjuster representing their company. The last quarterly billing by the Agent Services Division to public adjusting companies will be for the first quarter of 2010 and will only include public adjusters representing their company that were licensed in the first quarter of 2010 that did not pay the \$75 license fee at the time of application submission.

ANNUAL LICENSE FEE

Currently, \$75 is billed annually to the public adjusting company by the Agent Services Division for each licensed public adjuster representing their company.

Effective in January 2010, public adjusters will receive a notification from the Agent Services Division that they should complete an annual renewal application through NIPR and pay the annual \$75 license fee directly via credit card or electronic check. This notification will fully explain the NIPR renewal application process. The \$75 license fee is due by 3/31/2010 and will be available to be paid through NIPR 60 days prior to this due date. All public adjuster licenses issued by 1/29/2010 will have a renewal due through NIPR. New public adjuster licenses issued 1/30/2010 and after, will not have a renewal due through NIPR due until the 2011 renewal period.

Although the method in which the \$75 license fee is billed will change in 2010, there has been no change to the \$75 license fee requirement itself and how it is applied. To clarify, the initial \$75 license fee applies to the license period from the date the initial license is issued until 3/31 of the following year. The annual license period for public adjusters runs from 4/1 until 3/31 of the following year and the \$75 license fee is due for each subsequent annual license period.

Example: Individual public adjuster makes application for public adjuster license on November 1, 2010 and pays the \$50 registration fee and \$75 license fee (applied to pro-rated license period of November 1, 2010 through March 31, 2011). In February 2011 the division will send a renewal invoice for the annual license fee which covers the period from April 1, 2011 through March 31, 2012.

The \$75 license fee is the responsibility of the public adjuster pursuant to North Carolina General Statute 58-33-125. Public adjusting companies may make arrangements to reimburse public adjusters representing their company for this license fee. Such reimbursement arrangements would be considered contractual in nature and do not fall under the regulatory authority of the Department.

Please contact the Agent Services Division at (919) 807-6800 if you have any questions.