

To make appointments, call (202) 622-0990 (not a toll-free number).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

A. Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002

On November 26, 2002, President Bush signed into law the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-297, 116 Stat. 2322). The Act was effective immediately. Title I of the Act establishes a temporary Federal program of shared public and private compensation for insured commercial property and casualty losses resulting from an act of terrorism as defined in the Act and certified by the Secretary of the Treasury, in concurrence with the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. The Act authorizes Treasury to administer and implement the Terrorism Risk Insurance Program, including the prescription of regulations and procedures. The Program will sunset on December 31, 2005.

The Act's purposes are to address market disruptions, ensure the continued widespread availability and affordability of commercial property and casualty insurance for terrorism risk and to allow for a transition period for the private markets to stabilize and build capacity while preserving State insurance regulation and consumer protections.

The amount of Federal payment for an insured loss resulting from an act of terrorism is to be determined based upon the insurance company deductibles and excess loss sharing with the Federal Government, as specified by the Act. Thus, the Program provides a Federal reinsurance backstop for a temporary period of time. The Act also provides Treasury with authority to recoup Federal payments made under the Program through policyholder surcharges, up to a maximum annual limit.

Each entity that meets the definition of "insurer" (well over 2000 firms) must participate in the Program. The Act includes State residual market insurance entities and State workers compensation funds in the definition of insurer but requires Treasury to issue regulations as soon as practicable to apply the provisions of the Act to these insurers.

From the date of enactment of the Act through the last day of Program Year 2 (December 31, 2004), insurers under the Program must "make available" terrorism risk insurance in their commercial property and casualty insurance policies and the coverage must not differ materially from the terms, amounts and other coverage limitations applicable to commercial property and casualty losses arising from events other than acts of terrorism. The Act permits Treasury to extend the "make available" requirement into Program Year 3, based on an analysis of factors referenced in the study required by section 108(d)(1) of the Act, and not later than September 1, 2004.

An insurer's deductible increases each year of the Program, thereby reducing the Federal Government's involvement prior to sunset of the Program. An insurer's deductible is based on "direct earned premiums" over a statutory Transition Period (now expired) and the three Program Years. Once an insurer has met its deductible, the Federal payments cover 90 percent of insured losses above the deductible, subject to an aggregate annual cap of \$100 billion. The Act prohibits duplicative payments for insured losses that are covered under any other Federal program.

As conditions for Federal payment under the Program, insurers must provide clear and conspicuous disclosure to the policyholders of the premium charged for insured losses covered by the Program, and must submit a claim and certain certifications to Treasury. Treasury will be prescribing claims procedures at a later date.

The Act also contains specific provisions designed to manage litigation arising from or relating to a certified act of terrorism. Section 107 creates an exclusive Federal cause of action, provides for claims consolidation in Federal court and contains a prohibition on Federal payments for punitive damages under the Program. This section also provides the United States with the right of subrogation with respect to any payment or claim paid by the United States under the Program. As part of the claims process, and as directed by the President, Treasury will be issuing regulations addressing Treasury's role in the approval of settlements.

B. Previously Issued Interim Guidance

To assist insurers, policyholders and other interested parties in complying with immediately applicable and time-sensitive requirements of the Act prior to the issuance of regulations, Treasury

issued interim guidance in four separate notices. Treasury publicly released these interim guidance notices on its Program Web site, <http://www.treasury.gov/trip> and published each notice in the **Federal Register**.

Treasury released the first notice of Interim Guidance on December 3, 2002, within a week of the Act's enactment (Interim Guidance I). Interim Guidance I was published at 67 FR 76206 on December 11, 2002, and addressed several issues pertaining to immediately applicable provisions of the Act, including statutory disclosure obligations of insurers as conditions for Federal payment under the Program and the requirement that an insurer "make available" terrorism risk insurance. The disclosure guidance in Interim Guidance I references certain model forms of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and provides a safe harbor for those insurers that make use of such forms prior to the issuance of regulations, but Interim Guidance I stated that these forms are not the exclusive means by which insurers could comply with the disclosure conditions prior to the issuance of regulations. Interim Guidance I also provided guidance concerning the "direct earned premium" on lines of property and casualty insurance to enable insurers to calculate their "insurer deductibles" and enable insurers to price and disclose premiums for terrorism risk insurance to policyholders within statutory time periods.

On December 18, 2002, Treasury issued a second notice of interim guidance. This interim guidance was published at 67 FR 78864 on December 26, 2002 (Interim Guidance II). Interim Guidance II addressed the statutory categories of "insurers" that are required to participate in the Program, including their "affiliates"; provided clarification on the scope of "insured loss" covered by the Program and provided additional guidance to enable eligible surplus line carriers listed on the Quarterly Listing of Alien Insurers of the NAIC or Federally approved insurers to calculate their insurer deductibles for purposes of the Program.

On January 22, 2003, Treasury issued a third notice of interim guidance, published at 68 FR 4544 on January 29, 2003 (Interim Guidance III). Interim Guidance III further clarified certain disclosure and certification questions, issues for non-U.S. insurers, and the scope of the term "insured loss" under the Act.

On March 25, 2003 Treasury issued a fourth interim guidance published at 68 FR 15039 on March 27, 2003 (Interim