CCIR

Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators (CCIR)
News Release

Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators

Conseil canadien des responsibles de la réglementation d'assurance

CCIR Recommends Adopting Streamlined Classes of Insurance

TORONTO (March 22, 2002) - The Canadian Council of Insurance Regulators (CCIR) has completed development of a nationally accepted set of standard insurance classes that will make it easier for insurance companies to develop and introduce new products into the marketplace.

Through a committee chaired by Jim Hall, Superintendent of Insurance for Saskatchewan, CCIR started working on the streamlining project as one way of promoting increased harmonization in provincial and territorial insurance regulation. CCIR worked closely with the insurance industry to develop the new system.

"This initiative represents a substantial decrease from over 50 classes of insurance that currently exist in some jurisdictions to 16 harmonized classes of insurance, and 15 in Quebec," said Winston Morris, Chair of CCIR and Superintendent of Insurance for Newfoundland and Labrador. "Once implemented, the new system streamlines the licensing process for insurers."

"To better meet consumers' needs, insurers are developing new products that do not always fit neatly into traditionally defined classes of insurance. "This is why," added Mr. Morris, "a key component of this new system is the creation of the 'other approved products' class."

To expedite the process of adding new business to an existing licence or creating a new insurance product, insurer guidelines were developed. These guidelines came about as a result of extensive consultation with the industry and have been endorsed by the majority of property and casualty insurers. As the process evolves, it may be possible for all insurers to endorse common guidelines that would apply across all insurance sectors.

Most jurisdictions expect to have the new classes substantially operational for industry use within three years.

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