

- (1) *A lack of apprenticeable occupations;*
- (2) *A lack of suitable opportunities for internships;*
- (3) *Non-availability of contractors with eligible internship programs or registered apprenticeship programs;*
- (4) *A need for an adjustment in a minimum requirement for a contractor's internship or apprenticeship program due to industry limitations or considerations; or*
- (5) *A determination that the public interest is best served by a waiver.*

C. Waiver Request.

- (1) *A procurement officer may submit a request for a waiver to the Secretary or designee at any phase of the procurement process.*
- (2) *When requesting a waiver, the procurement officer shall submit the following documentation in support of the request:*
 - (a) *A description of the procurement, including details on any labor to be provided, the expected place of performance and period of performance, and anticipated contract cost;*
 - (b) *A detailed justification for the need for the waiver; and*
 - (c) *If applicable, a statement of the efforts made to identify contractors with eligible internship programs or registered apprenticeship programs.*

D. Waiver Documentation.

- (1) *If approved, the Secretary or designee shall issue the waiver in writing.*
- (2) *The procurement officer shall save a copy of any approved waiver in the relevant procurement file.*

ATIF CHAUDHRY
Secretary of General Services

Title 31

MARYLAND INSURANCE ADMINISTRATION

Notice of Proposed Action

[26-145-P]

The Insurance Commissioner proposes to:

- (1) Amend Regulation .02, adopt new Regulations .04 and .05, and recodify existing Regulations .04 and .05 to be Regulations .06 and .07 under **COMAR 31.04.16 Filing of Underwriting Standards**, and
- (2) Amend Regulation .04 under **COMAR 31.08.13 Application of a Percentage Deductible in the Case of a Hurricane**.

Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this action is to require that:

- (1) Insurers file underwriting standards for homeowner's insurance, and any subsequent amendments; and
- (2) Insurers file underwriting standards for PPA insurance, and any subsequent amendments.

In the past, the MIA required carriers to file underwriting guidelines for certain products. That practice ended in 2017. These regulations would reinstate the practice for homeowner's and personal passenger auto (PPA) insurance. These regulatory changes would give the MIA greater insight into homeowners' filings and personal auto filings and the overall status of these critical markets for Marylanders.

Estimate of Economic Impact

The proposed action has no economic impact.

Economic Impact on Small Businesses

The proposed action has minimal or no economic impact on small businesses.

Impact on Individuals with Disabilities

The proposed action has no impact on individuals with disabilities.

Opportunity for Public Comment

Comments may be sent to Jessica Blackmon, Government Relations & Regulatory Affairs Specialist, Maryland Insurance Administration, 200 St. Paul Place, Suite 2700, Baltimore, MD 21202, or call 410-468-2019, or email to insuranceregview.mia@maryland.gov. Comments will be accepted through October 19, 2026. A public hearing has not been scheduled.

Subtitle 04 INSURERS

31.04.16 Filing of Underwriting Standards

Authority: Insurance Article, §§2-109 and 27-501, Annotated Code of Maryland

.02 [Definition.] Definitions.

A. In this chapter, the following terms have the meanings indicated.

B. Terms Defined.

(1) Homeowner's Insurance.

(a) "Homeowner's insurance" means insurance for residential property that provides one or more of the following coverages:

- (i) Fire;*
- (ii) Extended coverage;*
- (iii) Vandalism and malicious mischief;*
- (iv) Burglary;*
- (v) Theft; or*
- (vi) Personal liability.*

(b) "Homeowners insurance" includes renter's insurance for a residential property that provides one or more of the coverages listed in §B(1)(a) of this regulation.

(c) "Homeowner's insurance" does not include:

- (i) An umbrella policy; or*
- (ii) Property insurance or casualty insurance issued to an individual, a sole proprietor, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, or similar entity and intended to insure against loss arising from the business pursuits of the insured individual or entity.*

(2) "NAIC" means the National Association of Insurance Commissioners.

(3) "Private passenger motor vehicle insurance" means insurance subject to the requirements of Insurance Article, Title 19, Subtitle 5, Annotated Code of Maryland, other than commercial insurance.

(4) Residential Property.

(a) "Residential property" means property that is used primarily as a residence.

(b) "Residential property" includes:

- (i) A residence written on a personal farm owner's policy form;*
- (ii) A condominium unit;*
- (iii) A mobile home; and*
- (iv) A multiunit building if one of the units is occupied by the owner of the building and not more than three units are occupied by tenants.*

(c) "Residential property" does not include a boat.

(5) "Underwriting standards" means underwriting manuals, including any amendments or supplements to underwriting manuals, and those generally accepted practices of the insurer contained in written underwriting instructions, guidelines, and rules furnished by the insurer for use by its underwriters and insurance producers as standards for acceptance of risks.

.04 Filing of Underwriting Standards for Homeowner's Insurance.

A. An insurer shall file its current underwriting standards for homeowner's insurance, including any supplements or amendments

that have been adopted, with the Commissioner on or before January 4, 2027.

B. An insurer that makes a filing under §A of this regulation shall include the following information in the filing:

- (1) The insurer's NAIC number;
- (2) A copy of the insurer's current underwriting standards;
- (3) An attestation that:

(a) States that the underwriting standards included in the filing are in effect as of the date of the filing; and

(b) Is signed by an executive employee of the insurer with responsibility for the insurer's underwriting function; and

(4) Any other information that the Commissioner specifically requests in writing.

C. As of January 4, 2027, an insurer may not implement or use an amendment to its underwriting standards for homeowner's insurance unless the insurer has filed the amendment to its underwriting standards with the Commissioner.

D. A filing is required under §C of this regulation before an insurer:

- (1) Adopts a new underwriting standard;
- (2) Alters an existing underwriting standard; or
- (3) Withdraws or ceases to use an existing underwriting standard in making underwriting decisions.

E. An insurer that makes a filing under §C of this regulation shall include the following information in the filing:

- (1) The insurer's NAIC number;
- (2) A copy of the new underwriting standard, a copy of the altered underwriting standard with alterations redlined or otherwise clearly identified, or notice of the withdrawal of the underwriting standard;
- (3) An attestation that:

(a) States the date on which the amendment to the insurer's underwriting standards will become effective; and

(b) Is signed by an executive employee of the insurer with responsibility for the insurer's underwriting function; and

(4) Any other information that the Commissioner specifically requests in writing.

F. The filing requirements under §§A and C of this regulation apply to underwriting guidelines for new business and renewal business.

G. A filing required under §A or C of this regulation shall be submitted via the System for Electronic Rates and Forms Filing that is maintained by the NAIC:

(1) Under the filing type labeled "Underwriting Guidelines"; and

(2) With a citation to this regulation entered in the field labeled "Product Name".

H. A filing fee will not be assessed for a filing that is:

- (1) Required under §A or C of this regulation; and
- (2) Submitted in accordance with §F of this regulation.

I. The Commissioner's acceptance of a filing required under §A or C of this regulation does not constitute approval of any underwriting standard included in the filing.

J. This regulation does not alter any filing requirement pertaining to an underwriting standard that requires a hurricane percentage deductible that exceeds 5 percent pursuant to COMAR 31.04.13.

.05 Filing of Underwriting Standards for Private Passenger Motor Vehicle Insurance.

A. An insurer shall file its current underwriting standards for private passenger motor vehicle insurance, including any supplements or amendments that have been adopted, with the Commissioner on or before September 1, 2027.

B. An insurer that makes a filing under §A of this regulation shall include the following information in the filing:

- (1) The insurer's NAIC number;
- (2) A copy of the insurer's current underwriting standards;
- (3) An attestation that:

(a) States that the underwriting standards included in the filing are in effect as of the date of the filing; and

(b) Is signed by an executive employee of the insurer with responsibility for the insurer's underwriting function; and

(4) Any other information that the Commissioner specifically requests in writing.

C. As of September 1, 2027, an insurer may not implement or use an amendment to its underwriting standards for private passenger motor vehicle insurance unless the insurer has filed the amendment to its underwriting standards with the Commissioner.

D. A filing is required under §C of this regulation before an insurer:

- (1) Adopts a new underwriting standard;
- (2) Alters an existing underwriting standard; or
- (3) Withdraws or ceases to use an existing underwriting standard in making underwriting decisions.

E. An insurer that makes a filing under §C of this regulation shall include the following information in the filing:

- (1) The insurer's NAIC number;
- (2) A copy of the new underwriting standard, a copy of the altered underwriting standard with alterations redlined or otherwise clearly identified, or notice of the withdrawal of the underwriting standard;
- (3) An attestation that:

(a) States the date on which the amendment to the insurer's underwriting standards will become effective; and

(b) Is signed by an executive employee of the insurer with responsibility for the insurer's underwriting function; and

(4) Any other information the Commissioner considers necessary.

F. The filing requirements under §§A and C of this regulation apply to underwriting guidelines for new business and renewal business.

G. A filing required under §A or C of this regulation shall be submitted via the System for Electronic Rates and Forms Filing that is maintained by the NAIC:

(1) Under the filing type labeled "Underwriting Guidelines"; and

(2) With a citation to this regulation entered in the field labeled "Product Name".

H. A filing fee will not be assessed for a filing that is:

- (1) Required under §A or C of this regulation; and
- (2) Submitted in accordance with §F of this regulation.

I. The Commissioner's acceptance of a filing required under §A or C of this regulation does not constitute approval of any underwriting standard included in the filing.

Subtitle 08 PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE

31.08.13 Application of a Percentage Deductible in the Case of a Hurricane

Authority: Insurance Article, §§ 2-109, 19-209, and 19-209.1, Annotated Code of Maryland

.04 Underwriting Standard.

A. (text unchanged)

B. If an insurer withdraws an underwriting standard that requires a percentage deductible that exceeds 5 percent, the insurer shall notify the Commissioner in writing [within 10 days of] prior to implementing the withdrawal.

C. (text unchanged)

MARIE GRANT
Insurance Commissioner