

AXIS EXCESS

TEXAS NOTICE-PROMPT PAYMENT OF INSURANCE CLAIMS

With respect to liability insurance:

The Insurer will notify the insured in writing of:

- 1. an initial offer to settle a claim made or "suit" brought against any insured ("insured") under this coverage. The notice will be given not later than the 10th day after the date on which the offer is made; and
- 2. any settlement of a claim made or "suit" brought against the insured under this coverage. The notice will be given not later than the date of the settlement.

With respect to first-party insurance:

- 1. Within 15 days after the Insurer receives written notice of a claim (or, if the insurer is an eligible surplus lines insurer, thirty business days after the date an insurer receives written notice of a claim), the Insurer will:
 - a. acknowledge receipt of such claim. If the Insurer does not acknowledge receipt of the claim in writing, the Insurer will keep a record of the date, method and content of the acknowledgement;
 - b. begin any investigation of the claim; and
 - c. request a signed, sworn proof of loss, specify the information the insured must provide and supply the insured with the necessary forms. The Insurer may request more information at later date, if during the investigation of the claim such additional information is necessary.
- 2. The Insurer will notify the insured in writing as to whether:
 - a. the claim or part of the claim will be paid;
 - b. the claim or part of the claim has been denied, and inform the insured of the reasons for denial;
 - c. more information is necessary; or
 - d. the Insurer needs additional time to reach a decision. If the Insurer needs additional time, the Insurer will inform the insured of the reasons for such need.

The Insurer will provide such notification within: (i) 15 business days after the Insurer receives the signed, sworn proof of loss and all information the Insurer requested, or (ii) 30 days after the Insurer receive the signed, sworn proof of loss and all information the Insurer requested, if the Insurer has reason to believe the loss resulted from arson.

If the Insurer has notified the insured that the Insurer needs additional time to reach a decision, the Insurer must then either approve or deny the claim within 45 days of such notice.

- 3. The Insurer will pay for covered loss or damage within five business days after:
 - a. the Insurer has notified the insured that payment of the claim or part of the claim will be made and have reached agreement with the Named Insured on the amount of loss; or
 - b. an award has been made.

However, if payment of the claim or part of the claim is conditioned on the insured's compliance with any of the terms of this Policy, the Insurer will make payment within five business days after the date the insured has complied with such terms.

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If the Insurer is an eligible surplus lines insurer, the Insurer must pay the claim not later than the 20th business day after the date of notice of payment by the Insurer or the date of compliance by the insured.

4. If a claim results from a weather-related catastrophe or major natural disaster, the claim handling and claim payment deadlines described above are extended for an additional 15 days.

5. As used herein:

- a. The term "catastrophe or major natural disaster means a weather-related event which is (i) declared a disaster under the Texas Disaster Act of 1975, or (ii) determined to be a catastrophe by the Texas Department of Insurance.
- b. The term "business day", means a day other than Saturday, Sunday or a holiday recognized by the state of Texas.

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