

Assignment of Insurance Review Board (IRB) Responsibilities to the Utility and Review Board (UARB) Questions and Answers

Q: Why is the Government reassigning responsibilities of the IRB to the UARB?

A: Government believes that assigning IRB responsibilities to the UARB will result in the most effective means of delivering this important regulatory function to the benefit of consumers and industry.

Q: Why is this change being implemented now?

A: This change coincides with implementation of two new regulatory changes: mandatory filing and claims notification requirements. The UARB is well suited to absorb the responsibilities of the IRB and will be able to effectively administer the new mandatory filing regulations, which will increase the number and frequency of automobile insurance rate applications.

Q: What will happen to IRB Board members?

A: Initially one or more (to be determined) IRB board members will be asked to serve as part-time members of the UARB. Over the next year, the number of full-time UARB board members required to oversee insurance responsibilities will be evaluated. One or two additional full-time UARB board members may be required depending on evaluation results. An increase in the number of full-time UARB board members may require amendments to the Utility and Review Board Act.

Q: What will happen to IRB staff?

A: All IRB staff are guaranteed positions at the UARB with no loss of benefits and salary.

Q: Will the resources of the UARB need to be increased?

A: Initially, one or more IRB board members will become part-time UARB Board members and IRB staff will be reassigned to the UARB. Other resources of the IRB (office space, professional services, etc) will be transferred to the UARB. Resource levels required by the UARB for the future will be evaluated over the next twelve months. Government believes the new structure will be cost-effective in the long-term.

Q: What will the impact of this change be on the insurance industry?

A: Effective October 1, 2008, the insurance industry will submit rate and risk classification applications to the UARB. Industry will be notified of the details of any changes in procedures in the near future.



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