

DECISION

**2025 NSUARB 30
M11993**

NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF THE INSURANCE ACT

- and -

IN THE MATTER OF AN APPLICATION by **CO-OPERATORS GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY** for approval to maintain its rates and to change its risk-classification system for private trailers and camper coaches

BEFORE: Jennifer L. Nicholson, CPA, CA, Member

APPLICANT: **CO-OPERATORS GENERAL INSURANCE COMPANY**

FINAL SUBMISSIONS: December 20, 2024

DECISION DATE: **February 7, 2025**

DECISION: **Application is approved.**

I INTRODUCTION

[1] Co-operators General Insurance Company applied to the Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board to maintain its rates and to change its risk-classification system for private trailers and camper coaches.

[2] The Board must consider whether the proposed rates and risk-classification system are just and reasonable and in compliance with the *Insurance Act (Act)* and its *Regulations*. The Board is satisfied that Co-operators' application meets these requirements and approves the company's proposed rates and risk-classification system.

II ANALYSIS

[3] Co-operators applied under the Board's *Rate Filing Requirements for Automobile Insurance – Section 155G Prior Approval - Minor (Rate Filing Requirements)*. Having deemed the file complete without requiring any information requests, Board staff prepared a report to the Board with recommendations on the application (Staff Report). Before providing the Staff Report to the Board, Board staff shared it with Co-operators. The company reviewed the report and informed Board staff that it had no further comments to add.

[4] The Board will examine the following issues in this decision:

- a. Eligibility to Use Section 155G – Prior Approval – Minor;
- b. Base Rate Proposal; and
- c. Discount Changes.

Eligibility to Use Section 155G – Prior Approval – Minor

[5] To use the Board's *Section 155G – Prior Approval – Minor* filing requirements, the annual written premium for a class of vehicle must be less than the

threshold established by the Board. However, private trailers are among classes that are explicitly allowed to use the Prior Approval - Minor filing requirements regardless of annual written premium. Therefore, Co-operators is eligible to use these filing guidelines for private trailers.

Base Rate Proposal

[6] Co-operators does not insure many private trailers and camper coaches, so it does not have enough data to produce a meaningful actuarial analysis. The company considers the current premiums sufficient to cover claim costs and proposes no change to its base rates.

[7] For a Section 155G-Prior Approval-Minor application, the Board does not require support for a proposal to maintain the current rates. Board staff recommends that the Board approve Co-operators' proposal to leave rates unchanged for private trailers and camper coaches. The Board agrees.

Discount Changes

[8] Co-operators offers its Blue Discount for its employees, board members, retirees, advisors, and their spouses.

[9] For property damage coverage, the discount is currently applicable to only private passenger and commercial vehicles, all-terrain vehicles, snow vehicles and motorcycles. The company proposes extending this discount for property damage to private trailers and camper coaches. There is a negligible impact on the company's revenues due to the minimal premiums on property damage that Co-operators levies for these vehicles.

[10] Board staff recommends that the Board approve this discount for property damage coverage for private trailers/camper coaches. The Board agrees.

III SUMMARY

[11] The Board finds that the application follows the *Act* and *Regulations*, as well as the *Rate Filing Requirements*.

[12] The Board finds the proposed rates are just and reasonable, and approves the changes effective May 8, 2025, for new business and June 7, 2025, for renewal business.

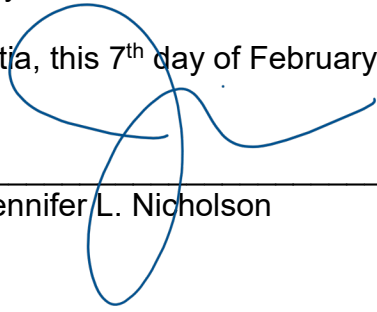
[13] The financial information supplied by Co-operators satisfies the Board, under Section 155I(1)(c) of the *Act*, that the proposed changes are unlikely to impair the solvency of the company.

[14] The application qualifies to set a new mandatory filing date under the *Mandatory Filing of Automobile Insurance Rates Regulations*. The new mandatory filing date for Co-operators for private trailers and camper coaches is December 1, 2027.

[15] Board staff reviewed Co-operators' Automobile Insurance Manual filed with the Board and did not find any instances where the Manual contravened the *Act* and *Regulations*. With the proposed introduction of the Blue Discount – Property Damage to private trailers and camper coaches, the Board requires an updated manual from Co-operators within 30 days of the date of the Board Decision on this matter.

[16] An order will issue accordingly.

DATED at Halifax, Nova Scotia, this 7th day of February, 2025.



Jennifer L. Nicholson