



# NOVA SCOTIA UTILITY AND REVIEW BOARD

## Information Bulletin: INS-16-01

February 11, 2016

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This publication is not a legal document. It contains general information and is provided for convenience and guidance in applying the *Insurance Act*, R.S.N.S. 1989, c. 231, ("*Act*"), as amended, and *Regulations*. In all circumstances, reference should be made to the legislation.

### **Approval of 2016 CLEAR Table**

The Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board ("Board") on February 10, 2016, approved the 2016 CLEAR tables (AB Alberta & Atlantic version) published by the Insurance Bureau of Canada ("IBC") for use in Nova Scotia. The 2016 CLEAR rate groups for physical damage coverages (Direct Compensation Property Damage ("DCPD"), Collision, Comprehensive, Specified Perils and All Perils) and for Accident Benefits can be used in Nova Scotia as a result of this approval.

The Board encourages companies using CLEAR tables to adopt the 2016 CLEAR (AB Alberta & Atlantic version), preferably within three months of the approval date of the table (i.e. by May 10, 2016).

### **Filing Requirements**

Companies adopting the rate groups from the 2016 tables may file an application using "*Rate Filing Requirements for Automobile Insurance – Section 155G CLEAR*" to meet this requirement.

The first step requires the Company to determine the change in premiums resulting from the implementation of the new table. Any impact on Accident Benefits as a result of the change must be off-balanced through the base rates.

For Companies who have received the Board's approval of a rate application which included complete actuarial indications with rate group drift reflected, with an effective date for renewal business after May 10, 2015 (i.e. 9 months prior to the approval date of the 2016 tables), no further adjustments are required to base rates. This also applies to a Company who applied to adopt IAO rates effective for renewal business on a date that falls within the nine month window.

Companies who do not meet the criteria above are required to reduce the base rates for Collision, Comprehensive, DCPD, All Perils and Specified Perils uniformly across all territories using the 2016 CLEAR Benchmark Base Rate Adjustments as outlined later in this Bulletin. For Accident Benefits where rate groups are already in use by the Company, no benchmark base rate adjustment is required.

Companies that want to adopt the 2016 CLEAR tables may also make an application under Section 155G using the Board's published "Rate Filing Requirements for Automobile Insurance – Section 155G Prior Approval". Priority will be given, however, to those Companies using the simplified approach described above.

A Company adopting the CLEAR rate groups for Accident Benefits for the first time must off-balance the impact of the adoption of these rate groups through the Accident Benefits base rate. Details of this calculation must be included in the application.

### **CLEAR Benchmark Base Rate Adjustments**

The Board used the following rate group drift (estimated by the IBC) and loss trends to develop and approve the CLEAR Benchmark Base Rate Adjustments to move to the 2016 table:

| <b>Coverages</b>        | <b>Premium or Rate Group Drift</b> | <b>Benchmark Loss Trend</b> | <b>Benchmark Base Rate Adjustment to move from the 2015 to the 2016 CLEAR table</b> |
|-------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| <b>Collision</b>        | 1.48%                              | +0.50%                      | -1.10%  |
| <b>Comprehensive</b>    | 5.21%                              | +3.50%                      | -2.20%  |
| <b>DCPD</b>             | 3.54%                              | +2.00%                      | -1.80%  |
| <b>All Perils</b>       | 2.60%                              | +1.40%                      | -1.40%  |
| <b>Specified Perils</b> | 5.21%                              | +3.50%                      | -2.20%  |

The Board anticipates, given mandatory filing requires a private passenger filing once every two years, that at most 1 year of premium trend and loss trend may not be reflected in rates for those companies who have not had a rate filing approved with an effective date within 9 months of the Board approval of the 2016 table. Therefore, only one year trends are used in the Benchmark Rate Adjustments.

Those Companies using an earlier version of the CLEAR table (e.g. 2013) or Manufacturer's Suggested Retail Price ("MSRP") table should contact Board staff to determine how to proceed.

### **Questions**

Any questions or concerns relating to approval of the 2016 CLEAR tables or the filing requirements can be directed to the following Board staff:

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Peter W. Gurnham, Q.C. Chair  
Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board