



August 13, 2014

CIRCULAR LETTER TO ALL MEMBER COMPANIES

IMMEDIATE
ATTENTION REQUIRED

Re: Planning For Revised Homeowners Territory Definitions

On January 3, 2014, the Rate Bureau filed with the Commissioner of Insurance (Commissioner) proposed revised homeowners insurance rates. A separate section of the filing also proposed comprehensive revisions to the homeowners territory definitions to reflect more fairly the different loss exposure of various counties and areas of the State.

The Commissioner has issued a Notice of Hearing, and a hearing is scheduled to begin on October 20, 2014. At the conclusion of the hearing the Commissioner will issue an order with respect to the filing.

Subsequent to the Notice of Hearing, the Department of Insurance published several objections to the proposed territory definitions, and the Rate Bureau has responded to those objections by submitting revised proposed territory definitions that supersede the definitions included in the original filing. These revised proposed territory definitions have not been approved. However, since the Rate Bureau's revised territory definitions address all of the Department's objections and the Department has raised no further objections on the territory definitions, the Rate Bureau is very hopeful that the revised territory definitions will be approved. Given our understanding that the programming of territory definition revisions requires more lead time than does the programming of rate level revisions, member companies of the Rate Bureau are advised to take the necessary steps now to prepare to program these revisions. The effective date of implementation is yet unknown, as revised territory definitions would become effective in conjunction with any rate level revisions resulting from the filing. The exact effective date of any revisions will be addressed in the Commissioner's order following the conclusion of the hearing. The Rate Bureau believes that the effective date will likely be in the spring of 2015.

The purpose of this circular is to provide member companies with advance notice of the revised territory definitions. By programming the necessary territory definition revisions in advance, the amount of time to implement any rate level revisions will be shortened.

In that regard, please find enclosed exhibits which set forth the proposed revised territory definitions and statistical codes. Please note that these definitions and codes apply only to the homeowners line of insurance and do not apply to other property lines under the Rate Bureau's jurisdiction.

Please see to it that this circular letter is immediately brought to the attention of all interested personnel in Your Company.

Very truly yours,

F. Timothy Lucas

Personal Lines Manager

FTL:dms

Attachments

P-14-6

1. TERRITORY ASSIGNMENTS

If a territory shown is defined in terms of United States Postal Service (USPS) ZIP code:

- A. Determine the applicable rating territory based on the location of the dwelling.
- B. An insured's rates shall not be changed solely because the USPS changed his or her ZIP code and the physical boundaries of a rating territory shall be determined by the ZIP code boundaries in effect at the time of the latest rate filing defining the territory.

Territory boundaries in North Carolina are concurrent with USPS ZIP code boundaries in effect as of **July 1, 2013**. If the USPS introduces a new ZIP code or realigns a ZIP code boundary after **July 1, 2013**, the new ZIP code may not yet be listed in Rule **2.C.**, If this is the case, assign the rating territory based on the ZIP code boundary that formerly applied to the dwelling before the USPS changed the ZIP code.

2. TERRITORY DEFINITIONS – (For all Coverages and Perils Other than Earthquake).

Assign the applicable territory using the following order of priority:

A. Counties

County of	Code
Alamance	310
Alexander	340
Alleghany	360
Anson	300
Ashe	360
Avery	370
Beaufort	150
Bertie	180
Bladen	230
Buncombe	360
Burke	360
Cabarrus	320
Caldwell	360
Camden	150
Caswell	310
Catawba	360
Chatham	280
Cherokee	390
Chowan	150
Clay	390
Cleveland	350
Columbus	200
Craven	150
Cumberland	220
Currituck (other than Beach Areas)	130
Dare (other than Beach Areas)	130
Davidson	320
Davie	310
Duplin	190
Durham	270
Edgecombe	210
Forsyth	310
Franklin	240
Gaston	350
Gates	170
Graham	390
Granville	260
Greene	180
Guilford	310
Halifax	240
Harnett	250
Haywood	380
Henderson	360

Hertford	170
Hoke	250
Hyde (other than Beach Areas)	130
Iredell	340
Jackson	390
Johnston	240
Jones	150
Lee	290
Lenoir	190
Lincoln	350
Macon	390
Madison	380
Martin	180
McDowell	360
Mecklenburg	340
Mitchell	370
Montgomery	300
Moore	290
Nash	240
Northampton	240
Orange	280
Pamlico	130
Pasquotank	150
Perquimans	150
Person	260
Pitt	180
Polk	360
Randolph	320
Richmond	300
Robeson	230
Rockingham	310
Rowan	320
Rutherford	350
Sampson	220
Scotland	250
Stanly	340
Stokes	310
Surry	310
Swain	380
Transylvania	380
Tyrrell	150
Union	340
Vance	260
Wake	270
Warren	260
Washington	150
Watauga	360
Wayne	180
Wilkes	340
Wilson	210
Yadkin	330
Yancey	360

B. Beach Areas

Beach Area – Localities south and east of the Inland Waterway from the South Carolina Line to Fort Macon (Beaufort Inlet), thence south and east of Core, Pamlico, Roanoke and Currituck Sounds to the Virginia Line, being those portions of land generally known as the "Outer Banks."

Beach Areas in Currituck, Dare and Hyde Counties: 110

Beach areas in Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender Counties:

C. Other than Beach Areas of Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover and Pender Counties

For areas of Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender Counties, other than the Beach Areas, refer to the following ZIP codes. If portions of these ZIP codes fall in Counties other than Brunswick, Carteret, New Hanover, Onslow and Pender Counties use the territory code for those Counties.

1. Eastern Coastal Territory

ZIP Code	USPS ZIP Code Name	Code
28403	Wilmington	140
28404	Wilmington	140
28405	Wilmington	140
28406	Wilmington	140
28407	Wilmington	140
28408	Wilmington	140
28409	Wilmington	140
28410	Wilmington	140
28411	Wilmington	140
28412	Wilmington	140
28422	Bolivia	140
28428	Carolina Beach	140
28443	Hampstead	140
28445	Holly Ridge	140
28459	Shallotte	140
28460	Sneads Ferry	140
28461	Southport	140
28462	Supply	140
28467	Calabash	140
28468	Sunset Beach	140
28469	Ocean Isle Beach	140
28470	Shallotte	140
28480	Wrightsville Beach	140
28511	Atlantic	140
28516	Beaufort	140
28520	Cedar Island	140
28524	Davis	140
28528	Gloucester	140
28531	Harkers Island	140
28532	Havelock	140
28533	Cherry Point	140
28539	Hubert	140
28553	Marshallberg	140
28557	Morehead City	140
28570	Newport	140
28577	Sealevel	140
28579	Smyrna	140
28581	Stacy	140
28584	Swansboro	140
28589	Williston	140

2. Western Coastal Territory

ZIP Code	USPS ZIP Code Name	Code
28401	Wilmington	160
28402	Wilmington	160

28420	Ash	160
28421	Atkinson	160
28425	Burgaw	160
28429	Castle Hayne	160
28435	Currie	160
28436	Delco	160
28447	Ivanhoe	160
28448	Kelly	160
28451	Leland	160
28452	Longwood	160
28454	Maple Hill	160
28456	Riegelwood	160
28457	Rocky Point	160
28466	Wallace	160
28478	Willard	160
28479	Winnabow	160
28518	Beulaville	160
28521	Chinquapin	160
28540	Jacksonville	160
28541	Jacksonville	160
28542	Camp Lejeune	160
28543	Tarawa Terrace	160
28544	Midway Park	160
28545	McCutcheon Field	160
28546	Jacksonville	160
28547	Camp Lejeune	160
28555	Maysville	160
28574	Richlands	160
28582	Stella	160