



## **Department of Business Regulation**

*Insurance Division*

1511 Pontiac Avenue, Bldg. 69-2

Cranston, Rhode Island 02920

# **Insurance Bulletin Number 2010-5**

## **Mandatory Appraisal Requirements**

The Department issues this Bulletin to respond to inquiries on the implementation of [2010 P.L. ch. 219 \(Senate Bill 2508 as amended\)](#) effective June 25, 2010. R.I. Gen. Laws § 27-9.1-4 was amended to include the following provisions as unfair claims practices:

- (23) Failure to have an appraisal performed by a licensed appraiser where the motor vehicle has sustained damage estimated to exceed two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500). Said licensed appraiser referred to herein must be unaffiliated with the repair facility repairing the subject motor vehicle.
- (24) Failure to perform a supplemental appraisal inspection of a vehicle within four (4) business days after a request is received from an auto body repair shop.

The Department recognizes that insurers will need time to implement the provisions of this statute. In order to allow adequate implementation of the statute the Department will not accept complaints nor institute regulatory action concerning violations of this statute unless they concern claims due to accidents that occur on or after August 15, 2010. The statute was effective on June 25, 2010 and this bulletin in no way impacts any civil dispute that may arise.

The Department has received a number of inquiries regarding interpretation of the statute. The Department believes that interpretation is best addressed in a public forum which may include amendments to Insurance Regulations 42, 43 and 73. In the interim, the statute controls with regard to any issue in which a provision of these regulations is in conflict with R.I. Gen. Laws § 27-9.1-4 (23) or (24).

Questions regarding this Bulletin may be directed to Paula Pallozzi, Chief Property & Casualty Insurance Rate Analyst at [paula\\_pallozzi@dbr.ri.gov](mailto:paula_pallozzi@dbr.ri.gov) Any insurer which requires expedited licensing of motor vehicle damage appraisers should contact Ms. Pallozzi with such request.

Joseph Torti III  
Superintendent of Insurance  
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