

## **NCIGF Model Large Deductible Legislation**

### **Section 712. Administration of Large Deductible Policies and Insured Collateral**

This section shall apply to workers' compensation large deductible policies issued by an insurer subject to delinquency proceedings under this chapter; however, this section shall not apply to first party claims, or to claims funded by a guaranty association net of the deductible unless paragraph B. of this section applies. Large deductible policies shall be administered in accordance with their terms, except to the extent such terms conflict with this section.

A. Definitions. For purposes of this section:

- (1) "Large deductible policy" means any combination of one or more workers compensation policies and endorsements issued to an insured, and contracts or security agreements entered into between an insured and the insurer in which the insured has agreed with the insurer to:
  - (a) Pay directly the initial portion of any claim under the policy up to a specified dollar amount, or the expenses related to any claim; or
  - (b) Reimburse the insurer for its payment of any claim or related expenses under the policy up to the specified dollar amount of the deductible.

The term "large deductible policy" also includes policies which contain an aggregate limit on the insured's liability for all deductible claims in addition to a per claim deductible limit. The primary purpose and distinguishing characteristic of a large deductible policy is the shifting of a portion of the ultimate financial responsibility under the large deductible policy to pay claims from the insurer to the insured, even though the obligation to initially pay claims may remain with the insurer. A large deductible shall include any policy with a deductible of fifty thousand dollars or greater.

Large deductible policies do not include policies, endorsements or agreements which provide that the initial portion of any covered claim shall be self-insured and further that the insurer shall have no payment obligation within the self-insured retention. Large deductible policies also do not include policies that provide for retrospectively rated premium payments by the insured or reinsurance arrangements or agreements, except to the extent such arrangements or agreements assume, secure, or pay the policyholder's large deductible obligations.

- (2) "Deductible claim" means any claim, including a claim for loss and defense and cost containment expense (unless such expenses are excluded), under a large deductible policy that is within the deductible.

- (3) “Collateral” means any cash, letters of credit, surety bond, or any other form of security posted by the insured, or by a captive insurer or reinsurer, to secure the insured’s obligation under the large deductible policy to pay deductible claims or to reimburse the insurer for deductible claim payments. Collateral may also secure an insured’s obligation to reimburse or pay to the insurer as may be required for other secured obligations.
- (4) “Commercially Reasonable” means, to act in good faith using prevailing industry practices and making all reasonable efforts considering the facts and circumstances of the matter.
- (5) “Other secured obligations” means obligations of an insured to an insurer other than those under a large deductible policy, such as those under a reinsurance agreement or other agreement involving retrospective premium obligations the performance of which is secured by collateral that also secures an insured’s obligations under a large deductible policy.

B. Handling of Large Deductible Claims.

Unless otherwise agreed by the responsible guaranty association, all large deductible claims, which are also “covered claims” as defined by the applicable guaranty association law, including those that may have been funded by an insured before liquidation, shall be turned over to the guaranty association for handling. To the extent the insured funds or pays the deductible claim, pursuant to an agreement by the guaranty fund or otherwise, the insured’s funding or payment of a deductible claim will extinguish the obligations, if any, of the receiver and/ or any guaranty association to pay such claim. No charge of any kind shall be made against the receiver or a guaranty association on the basis of an insured’s funding or payment of a deductible claim.

C. Deductible claims paid by a guaranty association.

To the extent a guaranty association pays any deductible claim for which the insurer would have been entitled to reimbursement from the insured, a guaranty association shall be entitled to the full amount of the reimbursement, and available collateral as provided for under this section to the extent necessary to reimburse the guaranty association. Reimbursements paid to the guaranty association pursuant to this subsection shall not be treated as distributions under [cite to priority distribution statute] or as early access payments under [cite to early access statute].

To the extent that a guaranty association pays a deductible claim that is not reimbursed either from collateral or by insured payments, or incurred expenses in connection with large deductible policies that are not reimbursed under this section, the guaranty association shall be entitled to assert a claim for those amounts in the delinquency proceeding.

Nothing in this subsection limits any rights of the receiver or a guaranty association that may otherwise exist under applicable law to obtain reimbursement from insureds for claims payments made by the guaranty association under policies of the insurer or for the guaranty association's related expenses, such as those provided for pursuant to [insert cite to guaranty association net worth provision], or existing under similar laws of other states.

D. Collections

- (1) The receiver shall have the obligation to collect reimbursements owed for deductible claims as provided for herein, and shall take all commercially reasonable actions to collect such reimbursements. The receiver shall promptly bill insureds for reimbursement of deductible claims:
  - (a) Paid by the insurer prior to the commencement of delinquency proceedings;
  - (b) Paid by a guaranty association upon receipt by the receiver of notice from a guaranty association of reimbursable payments; or
  - (c) Paid or allowed by the receiver.
- (2) If the insured does not make payment within the time specified in the large deductible policy, or within sixty (60) days after the date of billing if no time is specified, the receiver shall take all commercially reasonable actions to collect any reimbursements owed.
- (3) Neither the insolvency of the insurer, nor its inability to perform any of its obligations under the large deductible policy, shall be a defense to the insured's reimbursement obligation under the large deductible policy.
- (4) Except for gross negligence, an allegation of improper handling or payment of a deductible claim by the insurer, the receiver and/or any guaranty association shall not be a defense to the insured's reimbursement obligations under the large deductible policy.

E. Collateral.

- (1) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, the receiver shall utilize collateral, when available, to secure the insured's obligation to fund or reimburse deductible claims or other secured obligations or other payment obligations. A guaranty association shall be entitled to collateral as provided for in this subsection to the extent needed to reimburse a guaranty association for the payment of a deductible claim. Any distributions made to a guaranty association pursuant to this subsection shall not be treated as distributions under [Insert state insurance liquidation priority distribution statute ] or as early access payments under [Insert state early access statute]

- (2) All claims against the collateral shall be paid in the order received and no claim of the receiver, including those described in this Subsection, shall supersede any other claim against the collateral as described in Subsection (4) of this Section.
- (3) The receiver shall draw down collateral to the extent necessary in the event that the insured fails to:
  - (a) Perform its funding or payment obligations under any large deductible policy;
  - (b) Pay deductible claim reimbursements within the time specified in the large deductible policy or within sixty (60) days after the date of the billing if no time is specified;
  - (c) Pay amounts due the estate for pre-liquidation obligations
  - (d) Timely fund any other secured obligation; or
  - (e) Timely pay expenses.
- (4) Claims that are validly asserted against the collateral shall be satisfied in the order in which such claims are received by the receiver.
- (5) Excess collateral may be returned to the insured as determined by the receiver after a periodic review of claims paid, outstanding case reserves and a factor for incurred but not reported claims.