



Department of Financial Services

ANDREW M. CUOMO
Governor

LINDA A. LACEWELL
Superintendent

November 2, 2020

**RE: SPECIAL REPORTS PURSUANT TO NEW YORK INSURANCE LAW §308:
2020 INSURANCE AVAILABILITY SURVEY
2020 ANNUAL FREE TRADE ZONE REPORT
2020 SPECIAL HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE SUPPLEMENT**

Dear Sir/Madam:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the captioned data calls, as follows:

I. Insurance Availability Survey

The Department conducts surveys annually to determine the state of the markets for difficult-to-place or complex insurance coverages. We rely on insurers' responses to the annual survey to obtain meaningful and timely information on insurance market conditions and trends.

The survey consists of a Microsoft Excel file that contains multiple worksheets to be completed electronically. The survey format allows the Department to expeditiously compile insurer responses in a PC-based database.

We rely on insurers' responses to the annual survey to obtain meaningful and timely information on insurance market conditions and trends. This is a dynamic survey; each year, we update the survey based upon the Department's observations of an ever changing marketplace. As in past years, several types of coverage have been added, deleted, and consolidated in a manner that we believe will help you complete the survey quicker and more accurately. Please note that some changes have been made this year (see "Index" tab of attached survey document "Report20.xlsx" for detailed descriptions of the changes).

The "Index" worksheet in the Excel file and "ReadMe" document contain instructions for completing the survey correctly. In order that the survey responses you provide reflect the most current information on market activity and availability of coverages, please be sure to follow the instructions carefully.

For risks/coverages that lend themselves to both commercial and personal lines underwriting, responses may reflect your writings on both bases.

All recipients of this letter must complete and return the survey. If an insurer has no data to report, a "Nil Report" should be returned.

It should also be noted that responses are not required regarding reinsurance. Licensees that only write reinsurance should also submit a Nil Report (see the "ReadMe" tab for specific instructions).

II. Annual Free Trade Zone Report

Insurers that are licensed to write business in the “Free Trade Zone” (Special Risks as provided for in Insurance Law Article 63) are required, pursuant to Insurance Regulation 86, to complete the worksheet(s) that request information on Free Trade Zone business written during the most recent calendar year.

Instructions for completing the Annual Free Trade Zone Report are contained in the ‘ReadMe’ documents in the worksheets.

III. Special Homeowners Insurance Supplement

All insurers that have direct written premiums for homeowners insurance must complete the “HO” worksheet that requests information on insurers’ underwriting plans for homeowners insurance in New York in 2021. The responses to the Supplement will assist the Department in assessing market conditions and trends in areas with the highest exposure to potential catastrophic losses. If the company has no homeowners direct written premiums, the “No” box should be checked on the “General Info” tab.

Return of Responses

This year’s worksheets should be accessed on the Property Bureau Data Calls page on the Department’s Web Site, (https://www.dfs.ny.gov/apps_and_licensing/property_insurers/property_data_calls). Your Insurance Availability Survey, Annual Free Trade Zone Report and Special Homeowners Insurance Supplement should be completed accurately in accordance with the instructions, and transmitted to the Department as an e-mail attachment, addressed to AvailSurvey@dfs.ny.gov, no later than December 31, 2020.

Do not respond by hardcopy. Please note that any hardcopy survey responses submitted without the required electronic report file by e-mail attachment will not be accepted.

Insurers’ accurate and timely responses are a key element in the Department's efforts to cultivate and maintain market stability. Responses to the survey have proven to be of great value in efforts to help consumers and businesses find coverage appropriate to their needs. The reports’ information have also been a helpful tool in the Department's analysis of conditions and trends in the ever-changing insurance marketplace. Past reports have enabled the Department, working with insurers and producer organizations, to develop appropriate coverage sources in difficult market environments.

Questions regarding the content of the survey (coverages, etc.) may be directed to:

Mr. Horace Sumpter

Senior Insurance Examiner

Phone: (212) 480-5507

E-mail: Horace.Sumpter@dfs.ny.gov

Any questions regarding the technical aspects of the completion requirements may be directed to:
Mrs. Khatune Ghani
Senior Insurance Examiner
Phone: (212) 480-5649
E-mail: Khatune.Ghani@dfs.ny.gov

Your cooperation in promptly furnishing timely and accurate responses is essential to the success of this project. Insurers that fail to comply with this data call may be subject to fines in accordance with Section 308 of the Insurance Law.

Please note that we issue an updated report format for the survey request each year. Insurers should not submit data prior to receiving the Department's survey call and instructions each year.

Very truly yours,

Stephen Doody
Deputy Superintendent
Property Bureau