

State of Idaho
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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BULLETIN NO. 18-06

DATE: July 13, 2018

TO: Property and Casualty Insurers and Insurance Producers Writing Property and Casualty Business in Idaho

FROM: Dean L. Cameron, Director

SUBJECT: Certificates of Insurance

Background and Introduction

In 2012, Idaho Code § 41-1850, concerning the filing and use of certificates of insurance was added by SB 1390, which also amended Idaho Code § 41-1823, applicable to binders. In 2018, HB 522 amended Idaho Code § 41-1850 to allow certificates of insurance to include a reference to a contract or project number or description. This bulletin modifies and updates Bulletin 12-08 by highlighting certain provisions of Idaho Code § 41-1850 and supersedes Bulletin Nos. 12-03, 08-03 and 68-1 on the same subject.

Certificates of Insurance

Idaho Code § 41-1850(2) prohibits any person from preparing, issuing or knowingly requesting the issuance of a certificate of insurance unless the form of the certificate has been filed with the Director of the Department of Insurance (Director) by or on behalf of an insurer. The Director has received and accepted filings of certificate of insurance forms filed by ISO and certain carriers. Consistent with Idaho Code § 41-1850(5), if a carrier uses a filed ISO or ACORD form, that form need not be refiled by each carrier. Additionally, where other law provides for a particular certificate of insurance form to be used, once that form has been filed by or on behalf of an insurer with the Director, then individual carriers will not need to refile the form.

Pursuant to Idaho Code § 41-1850(3) the Director may disapprove any form filed with the Director if the Director finds that it (i) is unfair, misleading or deceptive or violates public policy; (ii) fails to comply with the requirements of Idaho Code § 41-1850; or (iii) violates any other provisions of title 41, Idaho Code, or any rule promulgated by the Director. Furthermore, although Idaho Code § 41-1850(3) references the Director's authority to withdraw approval of a form, Idaho is generally a certify, file and use state other than for specific provisions, where the Director does not expressly approve filed

forms. Carriers filing certificate of insurance forms will be required to certify that the form complies with Idaho law. The Director has the authority, however, to disapprove at any time any filed form that does not comply with the requirements of Idaho Code § 41-1850(3).

Idaho Code § 41-1850(4) codifies elements of Bulletin Nos. 68-1 and 08-3¹ by requiring that each certificate of insurance include the following or a similar statement:

This certificate of insurance is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon the certificate holder. This certificate does not alter, amend or extend coverage, terms, exclusions and conditions afforded by the policies referenced herein

Idaho Code § 41-1850(6) and (7) prohibit any person from knowingly demanding or requesting or knowingly preparing or issuing a certificate of insurance or other document, record or correspondence that contains false or misleading information or purports to affirmatively or negatively alter, amend or extend coverage provided by the policy of insurance to which a certificate of insurance makes reference. Idaho Code § 41-1850(10), amended in 2018, still confirms that the insurance referenced in a certificate is subject to all terms, exclusions and conditions of the policy itself. However, the amendment allows a certificate of insurance to include reference to a contract number or description or a project number or description, but by doing so the certificate may not and does not warrant that the referenced policy complies with the insurance or indemnification requirements of a contract or project.

The Director is authorized to impose an administrative penalty up to \$1,000 per individual and up to \$5,000 per entity, pursuant to Idaho Code § 41-117 for any violation of Idaho Code § 41-1850. The new legislation does not alter the authority of the Director to investigate and seek redress for violations of other provisions of the Idaho Code where such violations are associated with the issuance of a certificate of insurance, including without limitation, Idaho Code § 41-1016(1)(e) (illegal for a producer to misrepresent the terms of an insurance contract), § 41-1303 (illegal for any person to make a statement misrepresenting the terms of an insurance policy); and § 41-293(1)(c) (insurance fraud, a felony, includes presenting to a person, with intent to defraud or deceive, a false statement material to an insurance contract).

Any questions concerning certificates of insurance or filing procedures should be directed to the Rates and Forms Section of the Department.

¹ Bulletins 68-1 and 08-3, which are superseded by this bulletin, required the following language in each certificate: “This Certificate of Insurance neither affirmatively nor negatively amends, extends, nor alters the coverage afforded by the policy or policies numbered in this certificate.” The Department considers this language sufficiently similar to the new statutory language to be permissible.