

**IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE, FINANCIAL
INSTITUTIONS AND PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION
STATE OF MISSOURI**

In Re:)
)
ARGONAUT INSURANCE COMPANY) **Market Conduct Investigation**
(NAIC #0457-19801)) **No. 13075-19801-PC**
)

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

NOW, on this 4th day of June, 2015, Director John M. Huff, after consideration and review of the market conduct investigation of Argonaut Insurance Company (NAIC #0457-19801) (hereafter referred to as "Argonaut"), investigation number 13075-19801-PC, conducted by the Division of Insurance Market Regulation pursuant to § 374.190¹ and the Stipulation of Settlement ("Stipulation"), does hereby issue the following orders:

This order, issued pursuant to §§ 374.046.15 and 374.280 RSMo (Supp. 2014), is in the public interest.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that Argonaut and the Division of Insurance Market Regulation having agreed to the Stipulation, the Director does hereby approve and agree to the Stipulation.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Argonaut shall not engage in any of the violations of law and regulations set forth in the Stipulation and shall implement procedures to place Argonaut in full compliance with the requirements in the Stipulation and the statutes and regulations of the State of Missouri and to maintain those corrective actions at all times.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Argonaut shall pay, and the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration, State of Missouri, shall accept, the

¹ All references, unless otherwise noted, are to Missouri Revised Statutes 2000 as amended.

Voluntary Forfeiture of \$112,000 payable to the Missouri State School Fund.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of my office in Jefferson City, Missouri, this 4th day of June, 2015.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke, positioned above a horizontal line.

John M. Huff
Director

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STIPULATION OF SETTLEMENT

It is hereby stipulated and agreed by the Division of Insurance Market Regulation (hereinafter "the Division") and Argonaut Insurance Company (NAIC #0457-19801) (hereinafter referred to as "Argonaut"), as follows:

WHEREAS, the Division is a unit of the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (hereinafter, "the Department"), an agency of the State of Missouri, created and established for administering and enforcing all laws in relation to insurance companies doing business in the State in Missouri; and

WHEREAS, Argonaut has been granted a certificate of authority to transact the business of insurance in the State of Missouri; and

WHEREAS, the Division conducted a Market Conduct Investigation of Argonaut; and

WHEREAS, the Market Conduct Investigation revealed that:

1. In one-hundred, eleven (111) instances, an audit was completed and billed more than 120 days from the expiration date of the policy in violation of § 287.955.1¹ and 20 CSR 500-6.500(2)(A);

2. In two (2) instances, Argonaut estimated premium at final audit due to an uncooperative insured in violation of § 287.955; and

WHEREAS, the Division and Argonaut have agreed to resolve the issues raised in the Market Conduct Investigation as follows:

A. **Scope of Agreement.** This Stipulation of Settlement embodies the entire

¹ All references, unless otherwise noted, are to Missouri Revised Statutes 2000, as amended.

agreement and understanding of the signatories with respect to the subject matter contained herein. The signatories hereby declare and represent that no promise, inducement or agreement not herein expressed has been made, and acknowledge that the terms and conditions of this agreement are contractual and not a mere recital.

B. Remedial Action. Argonaut agrees to take remedial action bringing it into compliance with the statutes and regulations of Missouri and agrees to maintain such remedial actions at all times, to reasonably assure that the errors noted in the Market Conduct Investigation do not recur. Such remedial actions shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Argonaut agrees that audits on workers compensation insurance policies with Missouri premium or exposure will be completed, billed and premiums returned within 120 days of policy expiration or cancellation unless a) delay is caused by the policyholder's failure to respond to reasonable audit requests provided that the requests are timely and adequately documented or b) a delay is by the mutual agreement of the policyholder and Argonaut provided that the agreement is adequately documented;

2. Argonaut agrees to ensure that its procedures for determining final premium comply with NCCI rule 02-MO-2013.

C. Voluntary Forfeiture. Argonaut agrees, voluntarily and knowingly, to surrender and forfeit the sum of \$112,000 such sum payable to the Missouri State School Fund, in accordance with § 374.280.

D. Waivers. Argonaut, after being advised by legal counsel, does hereby voluntarily and knowingly waive any and all rights for procedural requirements, including notice and an opportunity for a hearing, and review or appeal by any trial or appellate court, which may have otherwise applied to the above referenced Market Conduct Investigation.

E. Changes. No changes to this stipulation shall be effective unless made in writing and agreed to by all signatories to the stipulation.

F. Governing Law. This Stipulation of Settlement shall be governed and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of Missouri.

G. Authority. The signatories below represent, acknowledge and warrant that they are authorized to sign this Stipulation of Settlement.

H. Effect of Stipulation. This Stipulation of Settlement shall become effective only

upon entry of a Final Order by the Director of the Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (hereinafter the "Director") approving this Stipulation.

I. **Request for an Order.** The signatories below request that the Director issue an Order approving this Stipulation of Settlement and ordering the relief agreed to in the Stipulation, and consent to the issuance of such Order.

DATED: 6/11/2015


Angela Nelson
Director
Division of Insurance Market Regulation

DATED: 5/28/2015


James Morris
Legal Counsel
Division of Insurance Market Regulation

DATED: 5/20/2015


Barbara Sutherland
Director, General Counsel & Vice President
Argonaut Insurance Company