

STATE OF ARIZONA
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DEPT. OF INSURANCE

REPORT OF TARGETED EXAMINATION
OF
AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

NAIC# 92738

AS OF

MARCH 31, 2005

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CHRISTINA URIAS
Director of Insurance

Honorable Christina Urias
Director of Insurance
State of Arizona
2910 North 44th Street, Suite 210
Phoenix, Arizona 85108-7269

Dear Director Urias:

Pursuant to your instructions and in conformity with the provisions of the Insurance Laws and Rules of the State of Arizona, a targeted examination has been made of the market affairs of:

AMERICAN EQUITY INVESTMENT LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

NAIC # 92738

The above examination was conducted by James R. Dargavel, FLMI, CIE, Examiner-in-Charge, Mel Mohs, CIE, Senior Market Examiner, and Helene I. Tomme, CPCU, CIE, Market Examinations Supervisor.

The examination covered the period of October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005.

As a result of that examination, the following Report of Examination is respectfully submitted.


Sincerely yours,

Paul J. Hogan, FLMI, ALHC, CI, CIE
Market Oversight Administrator
Market Oversight Division

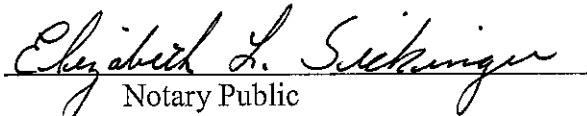
AFFIDAVIT

STATE OF ARIZONA)
) ss.
County of Maricopa)

I, James R. Dargavel, FLMI, CIE, being first duly sworn state that I am a duly appointed Market Examinations Examiner-in-Charge for the Arizona Department of Insurance. That under my direction and with my participation and the participation of Mel Mohs, CIE, Senior Market Examiner and Helene I. Tomme, CPCU, CIE, Market Examinations Supervisor, the Examination of American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company, hereinafter referred to as the "Company." was performed at the offices of the Arizona Department of Insurance. A teleconference meeting with appropriate Company officials was held to discuss this Report, but a copy was not provided to management, as the Examination was not finalized. The information contained in this Report, consisting of the following pages, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and that any conclusions and recommendations contained in and made a part of this Report are such as may be reasonably warranted from the facts disclosed in the Examination Report.


James R. Dargavel, FLMI, CIE
Market Examinations Examiner-in-Charge

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of November, 2006.


Notary Public

My Commission Expires Jan. 17, 2009



FOREWARD

This targeted market examination of American Equity Investment Life Insurance Company (“Company” or “AEI”) was prepared by employees of the Arizona Department of Insurance (“Department”) as well as independent examiners contracting with the Department. A targeted market examination is conducted for the purpose of auditing certain business practices of insurers licensed to conduct the business of insurance in the State of Arizona. The Examiners conducted the examination of the Company in accordance with Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) §§20-142, 20-156, 20-157, 20-158, and 20-159. The findings in this report, including all work products developed in the production of this report, are the sole property of the Department.

The examination consisted of a review of the following components of the Company’s annuity business:

1. Provide a proper “free look period” for annuity contracts.
2. Communicate all of the required disclosures relative to annuity contracts.
3. Use of proper replacement practices.

SCOPE AND METHODOLOGY

The examination of the Company was conducted in accordance with the standards and procedures established by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) and the Department. The targeted market examination of the Company covered the period from October 1, 2004 through March 31, 2005 for the business reviewed. The purpose of the examination was to determine: (1) if the Company uses annuity applications and contracts that contain the appropriate notice regarding Free Look and premium refund requirements; (2) if the Company utilizes annuity replacement procedures and practices, and provides training to its producers that complies with the applicable statutes; (3) if the Company uses compliant procedures for processing annuity refunds requested during the Free Look and 30 day option period; and (4) if the Company provides the required disclosure documents, buyer’s guide and annual reports on all annuity applications in compliance with the applicable statutes. This examination targeted the top 75% of the Arizona individual life and annuity insurance market.

The Examiners utilized both examinations by test and examination by sample. Examination by test involves review of all records within the population, while examination by

sample involves the review of a selected number of records from within the population. Due to the small size of some populations examined, examination by test and by sample were completed without the need to utilize computer software.

File sampling was based on a review of annuity new business files that were systematically selected by using Audit Command Language (ACL) software and computer data files provided by the Company's Representative, Ms. Libby Clark, Assistant Vice President. Samples are tested for compliance with standards established by the NAIC and the Department. The tests applied to sample data will result in an exception ratio, which determines whether or not a standard is met. If the exception ratio found in the sample is, generally less than 5%, the standard will be considered as "met". The standard in the areas of procedures, forms and policy forms use will not be met if any exception is identified.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This examination was completed by applying tests to each examination standard to determine compliance with the standard. Each standard applied during the examination is stated in this report and the results are reported beginning on page seven.

The Company failed Standard No. 1 because it used two annuity contract forms that failed to include a free look notice that offered the applicant, who is sixty-five years of age or older on the date of the application, the right to return the contract within 30 days after the contract is delivered and receive a refund of all monies paid.

The Company failed Standard No. 3 because:

1. It failed on seven annuity new business external replacement applications to notify the existing insurers that may be affected by the proposed replacement within five business days of receipt of a completed application indicating replacement.
2. It failed on nine annuity new business external and internal replacement applications to require, with the application, a statement signed by the producer stating that the producer used only sales material which had been approved by the Company.

The Company failed Standard No. 5 because:

1. It used a buyer's guide that failed to contain all of the required information.
2. It failed to provide the buyer's guide at or before the time of application.

The Company passed Standards No. 2 and 4.

STANDARD 1

The following Life Insurance and Annuity Replacement and Disclosure Standard Failed:

#	STANDARD	Regulatory Authority
1	Company annuity application and policy forms contain compliant notices concerning the policyholder's right to request benefit and contract provision information and the right to return the contract for a refund of premium.	A.R.S. § 20-1233(A), (B) & (C)

The Examiners reviewed AEI's annuity application and policy forms to determine if those forms contained notices that state the policyholder's right to request information regarding benefit and contract provisions, and the right to return the contract for a refund of premium.

Procedures Performed:

During the Phase I Examination, the Examiners reviewed one annuity application form, 17 annuity contract forms and a sample of 38 of 1123 AEI annuity new business application files. During the Phase II Examination the Examiners reviewed an additional 52 annuity external replacement new business files selected randomly from the above listed population.

Findings:

The Examiners issued a preliminary finding on two annuity contract forms that failed Standard 1. The contract forms contained a free look notice that failed to state that the contract holder may return the annuity contract within 30 days, if the contract holder is sixty-five years of age or older on the date of application for the annuity contract, after the contract is delivered and receive a refund of all monies paid.

Contract Form Number
SPDA-6-AZ
FPDA-8(2.25)-AZ

ANNUITY CONTRACTS AND APPLICATION FORMS

Number of Exceptions	Population Reviewed	Percentage	Applicable Statute
2	Contract forms	N/A	A.R.S. §20-1233(A)

Recommendation No. 1

Within 90 days of the filed date of this report, provide documentation that procedures and controls are in place to ensure that the Company uses annuity application forms and annuity contract forms that contain a compliant Free Look notice.

STANDARD 3

The following Life Insurance and Annuity Replacement and Disclosure Standard Failed:

#	STANDARD	Regulatory Authority
3	Company rules pertaining to producer and company replacement requirements are in compliance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations.	A.R.S. § 20-1241.02; 20-1241.04, 20-1241.05, 20-1241.06, and 1241.07.

The Examiners reviewed AEI's procedures pertaining to producer and Company requirements in connection with replacement of annuity contracts.

Procedures Performed:

During the Phase I Examination, the Examiners reviewed the information provided by the Company in response to the Coordinator's Handbook Attachments A and B, Interrogatories, and follow-up requests.

During the Phase I Examination, the Examiners reviewed a random sample of 28 of 1068 AEI annuity new business application files selected from the issued new business, external replacement new business and internal replacement new business populations. During the Phase II Examination, the Examiners reviewed an additional 52 annuity external replacement new business files selected randomly from the above listed population.

Findings:

Seven of 61 (11.5%) annuity external replacement new business files failed Standard 3 because the files contained no evidence that indicated the Company notified the existing insurer that may be affected by the proposed replacement within five business days of the receipt of a completed application indicating replacement.

Nine of 70 (12.9%) annuity external and internal replacement new business files failed Standard 3 because the Company failed to require, with the application, a statement signed by the producer stating that the producer used only sales material which had been approved by the Company.

COMPANY AND PRODUCER REQUIREMENTS REGARDING REPLACEMENT

Number of Exceptions	Population Reviewed	Percentage	Applicable Statute
7	61	11.5%	A.R.S. §20-1241.05(C)
9	70	12.9%	A.R.S. §20-1241.05(G)(1)

An error ratio greater than 5% does not meet standards; therefore recommendations are warranted.

Recommendation No. 2

Within 90 days of the filed date of this report, provide documentation that procedures and controls are in place to ensure that the Company provides a) a timely notice to the existing insurer upon receipt of an application indicating replacement and b) that the insurance producer submits a signed statement with each application stating that the insurance producer used only sales material that the insurer approved and that the insurance producer will provide copies to the applicant.

STANDARD 5

The following Life Insurance and Annuity Replacement and Disclosure Standard Failed:

#	STANDARD	Regulatory Authority
5	Company rules pertaining to providing disclosure documents, buyer's guides, and annual reports to contract owners are in compliance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations.	A.R.S. § 20-1242.02 and 20-1242.03.

The Examiners reviewed AEI's procedures regarding the Company providing compliant disclosure documents, buyer's guides and annual reports to contract owners.

Procedures Performed:

The Department's procedures included a review of the information provided by the Company in response to the Coordinator's Handbook Attachments A and B, Interrogatories and follow-up requests sent to the Company by the examiner regarding the Attachment A and B materials.

Findings:

The Company failed Standard 5 because it failed to include in the buyer's guide the NAIC identification, a description of the Free Look provision, a description of the Market Value Adjustment feature, the tax treatment of annuities and questions to ask the agent or Company.

The Company failed Standard 5 because, based on the procedures provided, it failed to provide the buyer's guide at or before the time of application.

Eighty of 80 (100.0%) fixed annuity issue, external and internal replacement new business files reviewed failed Standard 5 because the Company failed to provide the buyer's guide at or before the time of application.

COMPANY AND PRODUCER REQUIREMENTS REGARDING REPLACEMENT

Number of Exceptions	Population Reviewed	Percentage	Applicable Statute
2	Forms and Procedures	N/A	A.R.S. §20-1242.02(A)
80	80	100.0%	A.R.S. §20-1242.02(A)

An error ratio greater than 5% does not meet standards; therefore recommendations are warranted.

Recommendation No. 3

Within 90 days of the filed date of this report, provide documentation that procedures and controls are in place to ensure that the Company a) uses a buyer's guide that contains all of the required information and b) requires that a buyer's guide be provided to the applicant, in a face to face meeting; at or before the time of application.

SUMMARY OF STANDARDS

#	STANDARD	PASS	FAIL
1	Company annuity application and policy forms contain compliant notices concerning the policyholder's right to request benefit and contract provision information and the right to return the contract for a refund of premium.		X
2	Company producer training procedures and materials regarding replacement of existing coverage are in compliance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations.	X	
3	Company rules pertaining to producer and company replacement requirements are in compliance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations.		X
4	Company procedures for processing refunds under the "Free Look" option, or the 30 day option, if the application involved replacement of existing coverage, are in compliance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations.	X	
5	Company procedures that require disclosure documents, buyer's guides and annual reports be provided to contract owners are in compliance with applicable statutes, rules and regulations.		X