



STATE OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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CHARLES R. COHEN
 Director of Insurance

REGULATORY BULLETIN 2003-02¹

TO: Insurance Rating Organizations Insurance Industry Representatives; Insurance Trade Associations; Property & Casualty Insurers; and, Other Interested Parties

From: Charles R. Cohen
 Director

Date: January 23, 2003

RE: **Revision of Private Passenger Automobile Property Damage Threshold For Purposes Of A.R.S. § 20-1631(E)**

The Arizona Department of Insurance (“Department”) administers the Arizona Revised Statutes, Title 20, Chapter 6, Article 11, regarding the cancellation or nonrenewal of personal automobile insurance. This article restricts the reasons an insurer may cancel or nonrenew a personal automobile policy after it has been in effect for 60 days to the reasons set forth in A.R.S. §20-1631(D). However, A.R.S. §20-1631(E) sets forth the conditions under which an insurer is permitted to annually nonrenew no more than one-half of one percent of its personal automobile policies.

For accidents occurring after January 1, 2000, A.R.S. § 20-1631(E) requires the Department to annually adjust and publish, to the nearest \$10, the threshold amount of property damages insurers may use to nonrenew private passenger automobile policies under Subsection E. The threshold adjustment must be based upon the percentage change in the all-items component of the consumer price index for all urban consumers (CPI-U) of the United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). To date, the Department has adjusted the threshold as follows:

Circular Letter Or Bulletin Number	Date	BLS' CPI-U	Property Damage Threshold
Circular Letter 2000-3	2/14/00	2.2%	\$1,840
Regulatory Bulletin 2001-1	2/7/01	3.4%	\$1,900
Regulatory Bulletin 2002-1	1/28/02	2.8%	\$1,950

¹This Substantive Policy Statement is advisory only. A Substantive Policy Statement does not include internal procedural documents that only affect the internal procedures of the Agency, and does not impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties or include confidential information or rules made in accordance with the Arizona Administrative Procedure Act. If you believe that this Substantive Policy Statement does impose additional requirements or penalties on regulated parties you may petition the agency under Arizona Revised Statutes Section 41-1033 for a review of the Statement.

The BLS' most current United States' City Average CPI-U is 1.6%. Therefore, as of this date, **the property damage threshold level is hereby increased to \$1,980** ($\$1,950 \times 1.016$ rounded to the nearest \$10). Insurers may not use Subsection E to nonrenew personal automobile policies unless all of the requirements stated in A.R.S. § 20-1631(E) are met and the property damage has exceeded \$1,980 in 2003. The \$1,980 threshold will remain in effect until the Department publishes an adjusted threshold in 2004.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please feel free to contact Jack Sneathen at (602) 912-8461.