

## LICENSING / REGISTRATION FOR INSURANCE COMPANIES

### **The Process**

Under section 6 of the Financial Services Commission Act, no person shall operate any insurance business without first applying to the Commission to be registered or obtain a licence.

#### **Step 1.**

To become registered or obtain a licence, you will need to complete the application form that is applicable to your type of business. The application form can be completed on line, or delivered to the Financial Services Commission.

#### **Step 2.**

On receipt, your application form is assessed, along with the supporting documents. If necessary, we will ask for clarification of any issues. If the application is successful, you will be notified in writing, or where appropriate granted permission to incorporate the company.

#### **Step 3.**

If the application is unsuccessful, you will be informed in writing, and notified of your right to a review of the decision to refuse your application, as provided under section 177 of the Insurance Act Cap 310.

## ***LICENSING/REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR A DOMESTIC INSURANCE COMPANY UNDER THE INSURANCE ACT CAP 310***

In order to be registered as a domestic insurance company in Barbados, in accordance with Part 11 of the **Insurance Act, Cap 310** the following is required:

- An application form (**Form A1** – Application for registration by an Insurance Company)
- A five year business plan, inclusive of financial projections
- Details of reinsurance agreements
- The company's articles of incorporation
- A list of directors indicating for each director the full name, permanent address, country of birth, nationality, date of birth, business experience and other directorships
- Character references/ police certificates of character for directors, officers and managers

The company is also required to set up a statutory fund within 4 months after the end of its financial year with respect to its long-term or motor insurance business. Part I of the Second Schedule of the Insurance Act, lists the assets in which statutory funds may be invested.

In accordance with Section 24 of the Insurance Act, a statutory deposit is also required. A company may not be registered under this Act to conduct, and must not conduct any class of insurance business unless it has deposited with the FSC the appropriate deposit.

If the proposed company is a foreign company:

- It must be lawfully constituted in accordance with the laws of the country in which it is incorporated, and has undertaken insurance business in that country for at least five years prior to the date of application;
- It must appoint a person resident in Barbados to be its principal representative and inform the Financial Services Commission in writing of the name and address of that person; and
- It is required to submit its latest annual report, audited accounts and certificate of solvency.

The application and registration fees are set out in the **Fee schedule**.

The principals of the proposed company are required to conduct a meeting with the Financial Services Commission prior to submission of the documents and the other supporting information previously referred to.