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ELTO ready to accept policy records from members

ELTO members preparing to load EL policies and meet FSA requirements

The Employers' Liability Tracing Office (ELTO) is now able to start accepting data from insurer members for upload to the Employers' Liability Database. It is a year since the insurance industry established ELTO as an independent body to help claimants track down employers' liability policies and more than 95% of the EL insurance market has already signed up as members.

In February this year, the FSA issued its regulations which compel insurers to publish their policy data for commercial lines EL and this came into force on 6 March 2011.

Insurers are currently testing their systems to make sure their data loads onto the Employers' Liability Database (ELD) as expected. The search facility, also maintained by ELTO, is currently planned to be available through www.elto.org.uk from late April and will improve upon the previous tracing service by enabling claimants and their representatives to search the policy records available on the ELD at that time.

Insurers are required to meet the FSA's regulations for the following policy information to be available to search no later than 1 July 2011:

- New and renewed policies from April 2011
- Old policies that have a claim made against them
- Policies previously identified through the tracing service.

Adrian Brown, provisional Chair of ELTO and Chief Executive, UK, RSA Insurance Group PLC, said: "The industry is committed to enabling claimants and representatives acting on their behalf to have access to a comprehensive record of EL policies and this is what the ELD will become over time. It will only take a matter of minutes for a claimant to search those policies loaded onto the central database and for the results to be displayed on screen.

"Those companies that have yet to sign up as ELTO members should really do so now, because it is not only mandatory to publish this information but it also makes it easier for the

claimant or their representative to search a single source for the information they need to pursue their claim.”

Each ELTO member will be audited to ensure they are uploading the correct information to the database within a given timescale and that they are checking their policy records for searches which do not provide any results from the ELD. The FSA's requirements to collect additional data such as subsidiary company information and Employer Reference Numbers commences from April 2012.

ELTO, together with the British Insurance Brokers Association (BIBA), have jointly produced a guide to supplying EL data which is intended to be a reference for brokers, managing general agents and delegated authorities. The guide aims to answer some of the more common questions about supplying EL data and should ensure a consistent approach from the broker market. The guide is available from both the ELTO website (elto.org.uk) and the BIBA website (biba.org.uk). The guide will also be available in hard copy form at the ELTO stand at the forthcoming BIBA conference on 11–12 May.

Neil Drane, Head of Database Services at TSL said, “This is an important milestone for the industry. Rigorous testing of systems is underway and insurers are being supported by an account management team to ensure policy information appears on the database in the planned timescales. Insurers are also preparing staff as well as brokers and software houses to make sure they are all familiar with the procedures to comply with the data supply requirements set out by the FSA.”

ENDS

For further information, please contact Andy Thornley, Communications Controller on 01908 832157 or email athornley@mib.org.uk. For out-of-hours queries, please call 07595 551607.

Note to editors:

ELTO is a not-for-profit organisation which has been created to manage a central database of EL policy data. This will enable the insurance industry to meet its obligations to help those who have suffered injury or disease in the workplace in identifying the relevant insurer quickly and efficiently. ELTO is funded by a levy on its members based on a fee proportionate to gross written premium (GWP). The EL Database will also capture additional

information such as Employer Reference Numbers for employers, which should make search results more thorough. This will become compulsory from April 2012.

All general insurers must notify the FSA by 6 April 2011 of their actual or potential liability for UK commercial line employers' liability cover, and where applicable, the internet address of the tracing office used or their webpage together with other contact details. For the summary and full policy statement go to http://www.fsa.gov.uk/pubs/policy/ps11_04_newsletter.pdf and www.fsa.gov.uk/pages/library/policy/policy/2011/11_04.shtml