

MEMORANDUM
OF
UNDERSTANDING

Between

**New York State Insurance Department
(NYSID)**

And

**China Insurance Regulatory Commission
(CIRC)**

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Memorandum of Understanding Concerning Cooperation, Coordination, Consultation and Exchange of Information Related to Persons or Entities Engaged in the Business of Insurance

Overview

In light of the growing globalization of insurance markets, and pursuant to Section 110 of New York Insurance Law, the **New York State Insurance Department** (“NYSID”) and the **China Insurance Regulatory Commission** (“CIRC”) (collectively, the “Authorities”) hereby enter into this Memorandum of Understanding (“MoU”) to provide a formal basis for cooperation and coordination, including for the exchange, handling, protection and return of information in their possession and, where appropriate, investigative assistance with respect to companies and persons engaged in the business of insurance. The NYSID and the CIRC express, through this MoU, their willingness to cooperate with each other in the interest of fulfilling their respective regulatory mandates and functions.

The NYSID regulates all insurance business transacted in New York State and is the primary regulator for insurance entities domiciled therein. In its capacity as regulator, the NYSID administers, interprets and enforces the provisions of New York’s insurance laws and regulations, and is vested and charged with all rights, powers and duties as expressed or reasonably implied by the New York Insurance Law.

The CIRC is a ministerial institution directly under the State Council of the People’s Republic of China. The CIRC is authorized by the State Council to conduct administration, supervision and regulation of the Chinese insurance market to ensure the proper operation, legality and stable development of the insurance industry.

Definitions

I. For purposes of this MoU, unless the context states otherwise:

- (a) "Administering" an applicable law, regulation or requirement includes enforcing the same.
- (b) "Applicable laws, regulations and requirements" means any law, regulation or requirement applicable in the State of New York and/or in China, and where the context permits, includes:
 - (i) Any law, regulation or requirement applicable in the State of New York or China; and
 - (ii) Any rule, direction, requirement, guidance or policy made or given by, or to be taken into account by an Authority.
- (c) "Authority" or "Authorities" means the NYSID and/or the CIRC.
- (d) "CIRC" means the China Insurance Regulatory Commission.
- (e) "Confidential Information" means:
 - (i) Any documents or records deemed confidential by New York law, regulation, requirements or privilege, including, but not limited to, draft examination reports; examination work papers; analyses of financial condition; reports of fraudulent activity; records regarding holding company transactions; and trade secrets or records maintained for the regulation of commercial enterprise, which if disclosed would cause substantial injury to the competitive position of the subject enterprise. Confidential information also includes records the disclosure of which would constitute unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, would impair present or imminent contract awards or collective bargaining negotiations, or would endanger the life or safety of any person; records compiled for law enforcement purposes; certain inter-agency or intra-agency correspondence; computer access codes; and examination questions or answers requested prior to the final administration of such questions.
 - (ii) Any documents or records deemed confidential by China law, regulation, requirements or privilege.
- (f) "Emergency Situation" means any situation or event that could materially affect or impair the financial or operational condition of a Regulated Entity or Person or substantially affect the public interest of the jurisdiction of either Authority and that, accordingly, must be handled in an expedited manner.
- (g) "NYSID" means State of New York Insurance Department.

- (h) "Person" means a natural person, legal entity, partnership or unincorporated association.
- (i) "Regulated Entity" or "Regulated Person" means a company or person engaged in insurance activities subject to the supervision of the NYSID and/or the CIRC.
- (j) "Related Entity or Person" means a company or person engaged in insurance activities, or legal entities or sub-groups of a Regulated Entity or Person, including affiliates, branches or subsidiaries, regulated by the NYSID and/or the CIRC.
- (k) "Requesting Authority" means the Authority seeking assistance/information.
- (l) "Responding Authority" means the Authority responding to a request for assistance/information.

Purpose and Objective of MoU

2. The purpose of this MoU is to establish a formal basis for consultation, cooperation and coordination between the CIRC and the NYSID, and to provide for the exchange of information relevant to each Authority's supervisory, regulatory and examination responsibilities.

Requests for Assistance

3. Requests for assistance include, among other things, requests to: (1) confirm or verify information; (2) obtain information about a specified person or entity; (3) discuss issues of mutual interest between the Authorities; (4) question or request records pertaining to persons as designated by the Requesting Authority.

4. All documents provided to the CIRC or NYSID pursuant to requests for assistance under this MoU shall be clearly stamped, marked, or otherwise identified, with the words "FOR REGULATOR USE ONLY". Specifically, documents provided to the CIRC that contain Confidential Information shall, in addition to being stamped with the words "FOR REGULATOR USE ONLY", be clearly stamped, marked or otherwise identified as "CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVILEGED INFORMATION, DO NOT RELEASE." In addition, all requests for assistance that include requests for Confidential Information shall comply with the procedures and requirements, as set forth in this MoU. If a request for assistance is made under this agreement, each Authority shall use reasonable efforts to assist the other, subject to its laws, regulations, and overall policy.

5. This MoU does not create any legally binding obligations, confer any rights, modify, or supersede any domestic laws or regulatory requirements in force in, or applying to, the State of New York or China. This MoU does not confer upon any person the right or ability, directly or indirectly, to obtain, suppress or exclude any information or to challenge the execution of a request for assistance under this MoU. This MoU is not intended to affect any arrangements under any other MoUs in existence to which either of the Authorities is a party.

6. The Authorities acknowledge that they may only provide information under this MoU if permitted or not prevented under applicable laws, regulations and requirements.

7. The Authorities shall consider and promptly respond to all requests for assistance regarding: (1) the safety, soundness, or financial condition of a Regulated Entity or Person, or (2) the insurance activities of a Regulated Entity or Person. Where Confidential Information is involved, the decision to share this information is at the sole discretion of the Responding Authority; however, the Responding Authority shall use reasonable efforts to obtain and share such information.

Procedures for Making/Responding to Requests for Assistance

8. To the extent possible, all requests for assistance shall be in writing and, if made orally, the provisions of Paragraph 13 below must be followed. Requests for assistance must be directed to the appropriate appointed contact person(s) identified in Exhibit A hereto, and should include the following:

(a) A description of the information, confirmation or verification sought by the Requesting Authority, identifying relevant persons and specific questions to be asked;

(b) A general description of the matter that is the subject of the request and the purpose for which the information is sought;

(c) The desired time period for reply, and where appropriate, an explanation of the urgency thereof; and

(d) A description of other persons or entities, if any, to whom further disclosure of information provided to the Requesting Authority would be necessary, and the purpose such disclosure would serve.

9. Each Responding Authority shall use reasonable efforts to assess, on a case-by-case basis, whether any Confidential Information that has been requested can be provided under the terms of this MoU. Where the request cannot be fulfilled in whole or in part, the Responding Authority shall consider whether it, or any other regulatory authority in its jurisdiction, has the ability to render assistance to the Requesting Authority and, to the extent possible, shall use reasonable efforts to facilitate such assistance.

10. In deciding whether and to what extent to fulfill a request, the Responding Authority may take into account:

(a) Whether the request for assistance conforms with this MoU;

(b) Whether the request for assistance involves the administration of a law, regulation or requirement that has no close parallel in the jurisdiction of the Responding Authority;

- (c) Whether compliance with the request for assistance would be so burdensome as to disrupt the proper performance of the Responding Authority's regulatory functions;
- (d) Whether it would be detrimental or otherwise contrary to the public interest or the essential national interest of the Responding Authority's jurisdiction to provide the information requested;
- (e) Any other matters specified by the laws, regulations and requirements of the Responding Authority's jurisdiction (in particular those relating to confidentiality, professional secrecy, data protection, privacy and procedural fairness); and
- (f) Whether complying with the request may otherwise be prejudicial to the performance by the Responding Authority of its functions.

Confidentiality

11. The Authorities may voluntarily and in their sole discretion provide information, including Confidential Information, without having received a request for assistance.

12. In responding to any request for assistance, the Responding Authority shall clearly and conspicuously identify any information that is provided pursuant to this MoU that constitutes Confidential Information in conformance with the requirements set forth in Paragraph 4 above.

13. The Authorities agree to request Confidential Information only if it is relevant to their lawful supervision or examination of a Regulated Entity or Person, and shall use the Confidential Information they receive under this MoU only for those purposes.

14. To the extent possible, all requests for Confidential Information shall be made in writing and addressed to the appropriate appointed contact person(s) identified in Exhibit A. Where, due to an Emergency Situation or exceptional circumstances, an oral request is necessary, such request shall thereafter be confirmed by the Requesting Authority in writing within fifteen (15) business days. Requests for Confidential Information made at in-person meetings between the Authorities do not require a subsequent written confirmation if such oral requests will be noted in the minutes of the meetings between the Authorities.

15. In assessing a request for assistance or information, the Responding Authority may rely on the confirmation of equivalent confidentiality protections or other certification or confirmation by the Requesting Authority of its ability and authority to maintain the protected nature of Confidential Information. The Responding Authority may also rely on other relevant issues, such as its own knowledge of the Requesting Authority's practices and procedures.

16. The NYSID states that pursuant to New York Insurance Law § 110, it has the legal authority necessary to enter into this MoU and to protect from disclosure, and otherwise preserve, the confidential or privileged nature of any Confidential Information that it

requests and receives pursuant to this MoU. A copy of the law establishing such authority is attached hereto as Exhibit B.

17. The CIRC states and confirms that it has the legal authority, pursuant to No. 37 [1998] of the Notice of the State Council establishing the CIRC, to enter into this MoU, and pursuant to that authority, it has the power to protect Confidential Information from disclosure, and, where necessary, appropriate or required, will exercise that power to protect from disclosure all Confidential Information it requests and receives pursuant to this MoU.

18. All Responding Authority Confidential Information belongs to, and shall remain the property of, the Responding Authority. The Requesting Authority shall, in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and pursuant to the terms of this MoU, take all actions reasonably necessary to preserve, protect, and maintain the confidentiality of such Confidential Information and any privileges associated therewith.

19. The Requesting Authority shall restrict access to Responding Authority Confidential Information to those employees and agents of the Requesting Authority who are subject to the Requesting Authority's confidentiality obligations, are under its direct supervision and control, and who have a need for such information that is consistent with, and directly related to, the purposes for which the information was requested.

20. The Requesting Authority may provide Confidential Information received under this MoU to other state, federal or international regulatory or law enforcement officials who have authority over the Regulated Entity that is the subject of the Confidential Information, provided that the Requesting Authority: (1) discloses to the Responding Authority the identity of each recipient with whom the Confidential Information will be shared; and (2) confirms that each recipient agrees to, and has the legal authority to, maintain the confidential status of the information provided. In all other cases the Requesting Authority will seek consent from the Responding Authority before disclosing any Confidential Information that it receives pursuant to this MoU.

21. Where there is a subpoena or other legally enforceable demand for information supplied under this MoU, the Requesting Authority shall notify the Responding Authority. The Requesting Authority shall use all reasonable legal means to resist such a demand, including asserting such appropriate legal exemptions or privileges with respect to that information as may be available, and shall afford the Responding Authority the opportunity to take whatever action it deems appropriate to preserve, protect and maintain the confidential nature of the information provided, including consenting to any application by the Responding Authority to intervene in any action to preserve the confidentiality of the Responding Authority Confidential Information.

Costs

22. Where the cost of fulfilling a request is deemed substantial, the Responding Authority may, on a case-by-case basis, request that the Requesting Authority bear some or all of such costs.

Consultation Between the Authorities

23. The Authorities shall keep the operation of this MoU under review and shall consult with each other as necessary with a view to improving its operation and resolving any concerns that have arisen out of its operation.

24. Where a specific conduct outlined in a request for assistance constitutes a breach of a law, regulation or requirement in the jurisdiction of one of the Authorities, the Authorities shall consult with each other to determine the most appropriate means for each Authority to endeavor to provide the assistance requested.

Commencement and Termination of the MoU

25. This MoU shall take effect when both Authorities have signed it and shall continue to have effect until terminated by either Authority upon thirty (30) days written notice. Termination shall not in any way affect the rights or obligations of either Authority with respect to Confidential Information previously provided under this MoU or any privileges associated with such information.

26. This MoU supersedes and replaces all other existing agreements or representations, either oral or written, between the parties to this MoU regarding the sharing of information. No waiver, alteration or modification of the provisions of this MoU shall be binding unless subsequently made in writing and signed by duly authorized representatives of the Authorities.

27. This MoU will be executed by the NYSID and the CIRC in duplicate, in English and Chinese versions. The Chinese version will be certified as authentic by the CIRC. In the event of any discrepancy between different versions of this MoU, the English language version shall govern.

Executed by the Parties:

**For the New York State
Insurance Department**

**For the China Insurance
Regulatory Commission**

Eric R. Dinallo
Superintendent of Insurance

Meng Zhaoyi
Director General of the
International Department

Date: _____

Date: _____

EXHIBIT A**Contact Persons for:**

**New York State Insurance Department
25 Beaver Street
New York, NY 10004**

Name: Joseph Fritsch
Title: Director of Insurance Accounting Policy
Telephone Number: (212) 480-2299
Fax Number: (212) 480-2310
Email: jfritsch@ins.state.ny.us

OR

Name: D. Monica Marsh
Title: Supervising Attorney
Telephone Number: (212) 480-5298
Fax Number: (212) 480-5272
Email: dmarsh@ins.state.ny.us

Contact Persons for:

**China Insurance Regulatory Commission
Ji Rong Da Jie 15
Xicheng District
Beijing, China**

Name: Jiang Bo
Title: Deputy Director General of International Department
Telephone Number: +86 10 6628 6278
Fax Number: +86 10 6601 1869
E-mail: bo_jiang@circ.gov.cn

OR

Name: LIU Zhifu
Title: Director of International Cooperation Division, International
Department
Telephone Number: +86 10 6628 6282
Fax Number: +86 10 6628 8089
Email: zhifu_liu@circ.gov.cn

EXHIBIT B

New York Insurance Confidentiality Statute:

Insurance Law § 110. Cooperation with Other Regulatory Agencies

(a) In order to assist in the performance of the superintendent's duties under this chapter, the superintendent:

(1) may share documents, materials or other information, including the confidential and privileged documents, materials or information with other state, federal, and international regulatory agencies, with the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, its affiliates or subsidiaries, and with state, federal, and international law enforcement authorities, provided that the recipient has the authority and agrees to maintain the confidentiality and privileged status of the document, material or other information; provided, however, that this paragraph shall not be construed as limiting access to records pursuant to article six of the public officers law;

(2) may receive documents, materials or information, including otherwise confidential and privileged documents, materials or information, from the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, its affiliates or subsidiaries and from regulatory and law enforcement officials of other foreign or domestic jurisdictions, and shall maintain as confidential or privileged any document, material or information received with notice or the understanding that it is confidential or privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction that is the source of the document, material or information;

(3) may enter into agreements governing sharing and use of documents, materials or information consistent with this subsection.

(b) No waiver of any applicable privilege or claim of confidentiality in the documents, materials, or information shall occur as a result of disclosure to the superintendent under this section or as a result of sharing as authorized in this section.

Relevant Provisions of China:

Notice of the State Council on Establishing the China Insurance Regulatory Commission

No. 37 [1998] of the State Council

Internal Organization and Main Functions of the CIRC

International Department: Taking charge of the contact and cooperation work between the CIRC and relevant international organizations, and regulatory authorities in relevant countries and regions.