Swiss Re market overview shows trend towards higher mandatory minimum covers in European motor liability insurance

17 Dec 2002 CET

The motor liability insurance market is currently in the midst of change. According to a new Swiss Re publication entitled "Minimum covers in European motor liability insurance" two trends can be observed: unlimited covers are being discontinued in some countries, while, in line with EU directives, mandatory cover is being increased in those countries where it was formerly very low. The publication, which forms part of a series issued by Technical Publishing, provides an overview of the mandatory and voluntary covers for motor liability insurance.

Vehicles can, in extreme cases, cause a considerable amount of damage. To ensure that such losses are indemnified, all but a very few of the countries in Europe and its neighbouring regions legally require vehicles operating on public roads to carry liability insurance.

The market overview provided by the publication "Minimum covers in European motor liability insurance" shows to what extent provisions for mandatory insurance differ from country to country. There are considerable differences in the wide range of cover available and the minimum statutory cover within Europe. Several countries, mostly in the western part of Europe, require unlimited covers. This applies generally only to personal injury, while limits usually apply to property damage. This unlimited cover has been, or is being, reviewed in some countries, especially in those markets where such cover is taken out on a voluntary basis: for example, in Switzerland, Germany and Spain.

This brochure provides a survey of the minimum motor liability covers currently mandated by European and other countries that participate in the so-called Green Card system. In addition, it surveys the covers actually insured in practice.

The previous EU directives on motor liability insurance already went a long way towards closing the gap between the North and South. Thus, several countries within the EU, such as Portugal, Italy and Greece, have been persuaded to raise their very low cover requirements to meet certain minimal standards. Current directives will further promote this harmonising of minimum cover across the European market.

How to obtain a copy:

English and German versions of the publication are available electronically on our **website**.

Printed copies are available. Please mail your orders, complete with your full postal address, to **media_relations@swissre.com**.

Press releases are also distributed by e-mail; to be put on the distribution list, please send an e-mail to **media_relations@swissre.com**.

Notes for editors:

Swiss Re is one of the world's leading reinsurers with over 70 offices in more than 30 countries. Swiss Re reported a loss of CHF 165 million in 2001, predominantly due to losses from 11 September. In the 2001 financial year, gross premium volume amounted to CHF 28.5 billion. At the end of June 2002, Swiss Re's shareholders' equity amounted to CHF 18.3 billion and the total balance sheet stood at CHF 168 billion. Swiss Re is rated "AA+" by Standard & Poor's, "Aa1" by Moody's and "A++" by A.M. Best.

Contact:

Group Media Relations, Zurich, tel. +41 43 285 7171
Media Relations, London, tel. +44 20 7204 3937
Investor Relations, tel. +41 43 285 4444

Download:

English
German