

TO: All Licensed Insurers and Surplus Lines Brokers

FROM: Alabama Department of Insurance

RE: Mandatory Use OPTins for Premium Tax and Surplus Lines Filers

Effective, October 1, 2018, the Alabama Department of Insurance has mandated the use of OPTins (Online Premium Tax for Insurance) for insurance companies & brokers filing and paying Premium Tax or Surplus Lines. OPTins, a product of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC), has been developed to facilitate state specific forms and payments.

OPTins is already available to begin paying your Premium Taxes and Surplus Lines filings. If you are already registered to use OPTins, nothing additional is required.

The steps to submit your tax filing are very simple and require no formal training. Easy to follow instructions are available at: <http://www.optins.org>. Once registered and set up, you will be able to log in, upload your filing forms and submit your payment online. No more paper checks – everything is electronic and tax forms along with the payment are received at the Alabama Department of Insurance immediately upon submission by the company or broker.

Using OPTins allows you to save time and ensure that both the forms and payment are received together and on time. Please visit www.optins.org and click on Getting Started to download the implementation paperwork labeled “All Other”. Once it is completed, submit the forms to optinsmktg@naic.org and a product specialist will work with you through your implementation. Once registered and set up, you will be able to log in, upload your filing forms and submit your payment online. Setup of a new account takes 7-10 business days. If you already use OPTins, you do not have to contact OPTins Marketing. Once you have an account in OPTins, you can file to all state accounts using our application.

The transaction fees associated with using OPTins is required by the NAIC. The applicable fees are broken down into three categories: Surplus Lines and Premium Tax.

- Surplus Lines: \$10; \$1 for zero filings.
- Premium Tax: \$10 flat fee for all filings.
- State Specific: \$10 flat fee for all filings.

OPTins will facilitate the amendment process. There are no additional transaction fees to submit amended forms and/or additional tax payments to the state.

If you have any additional questions regarding transaction fees, please contact the OPTins Marketing Team at optinsmktg@naic.org.

Attachment:
Bulletin 2018-03

Questions or comments applicable to this email should be directed to:

Alabama Department of Insurance
Premium Tax Section
Accounting Division
Phone: 1-800-433-3966
Email: premiumtax@insurance.alabama.gov





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BULLETIN NO. 2018-03

TO: All insurers and surplus lines brokers licensed to do business in Alabama

FROM: Jim L. Ridling
Commissioner of Insurance *JLR*

DATE: August 21, 2018

RE: Use of *OPTins* electronic tax and fee filing and payment system –
mandatory effect of Regulation 482-1-144

RESCINDS: Bulletin 2009-03 (effective 10.01.2018)

EFFECTIVE: Immediate

Effective January 1, 2009, Department regulation 482-1-144 required use of the *OPTins* system maintained by the National Association of Insurance Commissioners for the filing of premium tax and surplus line broker tax returns and EFT payment of premium taxes, surplus line broker taxes, and fees as prescribed in the regulation. Bulletin 2009-03, issued on March 9, 2009, made use of the *OPTins* system voluntary instead of mandatory due to operational issues with the system.

The Commissioner of Insurance finds that use of the *OPTins* system for electronic filing of returns and EFT payment of taxes and fees, all as addressed in Regulation 482-1-144, shall be **mandatory** as already provided in the regulation unless the Commissioner of Insurance grants an entity or person subject to the regulation a "hardship" exemption as set forth in rule 482-1-144-.09. Any operational issues have been resolved. **Bulletin 2009-03 is thus rescinded, effective October 1, 2018.**

Mandatory use of the *OPTins* system shall start as follows:

Electronic filing of premium tax returns and EFT payment of premium taxes and any stated fees payable on a quarterly basis for the third quarter of 2018 must be done through the *OPTins* system not later than **November 15, 2018.**

Electronic filing of annual premium tax returns and EFT payment of premium taxes and any stated fees for calendar year 2018 must be done through the *OPTins* system **not later than March 1, 2019.**

Electronic filing of surplus line broker tax returns and EFT payment of surplus line broker taxes for the third quarter of 2018 must be done through the *OPTins* system **not later than November 15, 2018.**

Electronic filing of annual surplus line broker tax returns and EFT payment of surplus line brokers taxes for calendar year 2018 must be done through the *OPTins* system **not later than March 1, 2019.**

Regulation 482-1-144 shall thereafter be in effect. Manual filing of tax returns and checks in payment of taxes will no longer be accepted absent a valid "hardship" exemption. If not already done, entities and persons subject to this Bulletin and Regulation 482-1-144 must make appropriate arrangements to access the *OPTins* system in time to meet the dates set forth above.

In case of questions about this Bulletin, please contact:

LaKisha Hardy, Premium Tax Supervisor
Office: Accounting Division
Phone: 1-800-433-3966
Email: premiumtax@insurance.alabama.gov

For technical questions concerning the *OPTins* registration process, please go to: <http://www.optins.org>.

JLR/JFM/bc