



IIPRC-L-08-LB-I-AD-1
STANDARDS FOR ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFITS

1. Date Adopted: August 13, 2026
2. Purpose and Scope: The Standards for Accidental Death Benefits provide for the payment of benefits to the beneficiary under a life insurance policy in the event death occurs due to an accident as defined by the terms of the policy. These standards apply to the benefit feature whether added to an individual life insurance policy by rider, endorsement or amendment or by incorporation into a policy form. These standards apply in addition to the general form requirements contained in the Standards for All Benefit Features. Accidental dismemberment benefits are outside the scope of these standards.
3. Rules Repealed, Amended or Suspended by the Rule: This rule amends the Standards for Accidental Death originally adopted by the IIPRC February 28, 2007 and amended on August 15, 2014. The purpose of this amendment is to revise the Standards for Accidental Death Benefits to clarify the acceptable ratio of the amount of an accidental death benefit in relation to an individual life insurance policy's all-cause death benefit. See the Transmittal Memo for a more detailed description of the proposed amendments.
4. Statutory Authority: Among the primary purposes and powers of the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission ("IIPRC") is to establish reasonable uniform standards for insurance products covered under the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Compact ("Compact"), specifically pursuant to Article I §2, Article IV § 2 and Article VII § 1 of the Compact, as enacted into law by each IIPRC member state.
5. Required Findings: None
6. Effective Date: December 2, 2026

STANDARDS FOR ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFITS

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STANDARDS FOR ACCIDENTAL DEATH BENEFITS

Scope: These standards apply to accidental death benefits that are built into individual life insurance policy forms or added to such policy forms by rider, endorsement or amendment. These standards shall not apply to accidental death benefits that include dismemberment benefits.

Mix and Match: These standards are available to be used in combination with State Product Components as described in § 111(b) of the Operating Procedure for the Filing and Approval of Product Filings.

Self-Certification: These standards are not available to be filed on a self-certification basis in accordance with the Rule for the Self-Certification of Products Filed with the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission.

§ 1 ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A. GENERAL

The following additional filing submission requirements shall apply:

- (1) A statement of the types of policy forms with which this benefit will be offered, any underwriting restrictions involving face amount or age, and whether the benefit is intended for use with new issues and/or in force business.
- (2) A description of the benefit for all types of forms with which the benefit will be used.
- (3) The formulae, if any, used to determine the benefit, including any limitations on the amount of the benefit and sample calculations for representative issue ages, including issue age 35 if within the issue age range.

§ 2 BENEFIT PROVISIONS

A. BENEFIT

- (1) The form shall describe the conditions that shall be met to be eligible for the accidental death benefit. The conditions shall comply with the following:
 - (a) If death has to occur within a specified time period after the injury occurs, the form shall also disclose the time period, but shall not be more restrictive than requiring the accidental death to occur within 180 days following the date of the accidental injury; and
 - (b) The form may require that death be caused by an accident but such requirement shall be without regard to the means of the accident. The terms “accident”, “accidental injury” or “accidental means” shall be defined to employ “result” language and shall not include words which establish an accidental means test. The definition of “injury” may not be

more restrictive than “injury means an accidental bodily injury sustained by the insured which is a direct result of an accident, independent of disease or bodily or mental illness or infirmity or any other cause, and which occurs while the insurance benefit is in force.”

- (2) The form may include the following:
 - (a) An additional indemnity benefit for accidental death occurring while the insured was riding as a fare-paying passenger on a public conveyance;
 - (b) An additional indemnity benefit for accidental death occurring while the insured was wearing a seat belt or the insured was riding in a seat protected by an air bag; and
 - (c) A presumption of death provision which states that the insured shall be presumed to have died as a result of accidental injury if the aircraft or other vehicle in which the insured was traveling disappears, sinks or is wrecked, and the body of the insured is not found for a specified number of years from the date the aircraft or other vehicle was scheduled to arrive at its destination, or the insured is reported missing to the authorities.
- (3) The form may include other accidental death benefits that are approved by the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission.
- (4) The form shall state that the accidental death benefit is payable to the beneficiary.
- (5) The proportion of the accidental death benefit amount shall not exceed more than three times the life insurance death benefit amount that the accidental death benefit is attached to within the policy or by rider or endorsement.
 - (a) For a life insurance policy with early duration reduced death benefits, the life insurance death benefit amount limitation in Section 2A(5) applies to the ultimate face amount.

B. AUTOPSY

- (1) The form may state that the company reserves the right, at its expense, to request an autopsy unless prohibited by law.

C. EXCLUSIONS

- (1) The form shall specify any exclusion applicable to the accidental death benefit. The exclusions shall be limited to the following:
 - (a) Death caused or contributed to by disease or infirmity of mind or body, or medical or surgical treatment for such disease or infirmity;
 - (b) An infection not occurring as a direct result or consequence of the accidental bodily injury;

- (c) Death caused or contributed to by any attempt at suicide, or intentionally self-inflicted injury, while sane or insane;
 - (d) Death caused or contributed to by travel in or descent from an aircraft, if the insured acted in a capacity other than as a passenger;
 - (e) Death caused or contributed to by travel in an aircraft or device used for testing or experimental purposes, used by or for any military authority, used for travel beyond the earth's atmosphere;
 - (f) Death caused or contributed to by "war" or "act of war," as defined in the standards for the exclusions provision of the individual life policy;
 - (g) Death caused or contributed to by active participation in a riot, insurrection or terrorist activity;
 - (h) Death occurring while the proposed insured is incarcerated;
 - (i) Death caused or contributed to by committing or attempting to commit a felony;
 - (j) Death caused or materially contributed to by voluntary intake or use by any means of:
 - (i) Any drug, unless prescribed or administered by a physician and taken in accordance with the physician's instructions, or;
 - (ii) Poison, gas or fumes, unless a direct result of an occupational accident;
 - (k) Death caused or contributed to by intoxication as defined by the jurisdiction where the accident occurred;
 - (l) Death caused or contributed to by riding or driving an air, land or water vehicle in a race, speed or endurance contest;
 - (m) Death occurring before the insured's first birthday;
 - (n) Death caused or contributed to by bungee jumping;
 - (o) Death caused or materially contributed to by participation in an illegal occupation or activity;
 - (p) Death caused or contributed to by rock or mountain climbing; and/or
 - (q) Death caused or contributed to by aeronautics (hang-gliding, skydiving, parachuting, ultralight, soaring, ballooning and parasailing).
- (2) The form may include any other exclusions that may be approved by the Interstate Insurance Product Regulation Commission.

D. INCONTESTABILITY

- (1) If the form is issued as an attachment to the policy, the form may state that the company shall not contest the form after it has been in force during the lifetime of the insured for two years from the date of issue of the form, except for fraud in the procurement of the form, when permitted by applicable law in the state where the policy is delivered or issued for delivery.

E. NONFORFEITURE VALUES

- (1) If the form is issued as an attachment to the policy, the form shall state that it does not have cash values or loan values.

F. TERMINATION

- (1) The form shall include the following termination conditions:
 - (a) Upon written request from the owner;
 - (b) Upon termination of the policy; or
 - (c) Upon nonpayment of the identifiable charge, in accordance with the provisions of the form or the policy.
- (2) The form may also include the following termination conditions:
 - (a) The policy anniversary on which the insured attains a specified age;
 - (b) The date the policy lapses or is continued as extended or paid-up insurance under the nonforfeiture provisions;
 - (c) If the policy is an endowment policy, on the date of endowment, regardless if the endowment date is deferred.
- (3) The form shall state that termination shall not prejudice the payment of benefits for any accident that occurred while the form was in force.