

Extracts from Chapter IV of the IRDAI (Insurance Surveyors and Loss Assessors) Regulations, 2015 (Regulations)

DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A SURVEYOR AND LOSS ASSESSOR

It shall be the duty of every Licensed Surveyor and Loss Assessor to investigate, manage, quantify, validate and deal with losses (whether insured or not) arising from any contingency, and report thereon to the insurer or insured, as the case may be., All Licensed Surveyors and Loss Assessors shall carry out the said work with competence, objectivity and professional integrity and strictly adhere to the code of conduct as stipulated in the Regulations.

- (1) The following, shall, inter alia, be the duties and responsibilities of a Surveyor and Loss Assessor:
 - (a) declaring whether he has any interest in the subject-matter in question or whether it pertains to any of his relatives, business partners or through material shareholding; Explanation: For the purpose of this clause 'relatives' shall mean any of the relatives as deemed in Subsection (77) of Section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013*;
 - (b) Bringing to the notice of the Authority, any change in the information or particulars furnished at the time of issuance of license, within a period not exceeding fifteen days from the date of occurrence of such change that has a bearing on the license granted by the Authority
 - (c) Maintaining confidentiality and neutrality without jeopardising the liability of the insurer and claim of the insured;
 - (d) conducting inspection and re-inspection of the property in question suffering a loss;
 - (e) examining, inquiring, investigating, verifying and checking upon the causes and the circumstances of the loss in question including extent of loss, nature of ownership and insurable interest;
 - (f) conducting spot and final surveys, as and when necessary and comment upon franchise, excess/underinsurance and any other related matter;
 - (g) estimating, measuring and determining the quantum and description of the subject under loss;
 - (h) advising the insurer and the insured about loss minimisation, loss control, security and safety measures, wherever appropriate, to avoid further losses;
 - (i) commenting on the admissibility of the loss as also observance of warranty conditions under the policy contract;
 - (j) surveying and assessing the loss on behalf of insurer or insured;
 - (k) assessing liability under the contract of insurance;
 - (l) pointing out discrepancy, if any, in the policy wordings;
 - (m) satisfying queries of the insured/insurer and of persons connected thereto in respect of the claim/loss;
 - (n) recommending applicability of depreciation, percentage and quantum of depreciation;
 - (o) giving reasons for repudiation of claim, in case the claim is not covered by policy terms and conditions;
 - (p) taking expert opinion, wherever required;
 - (q) commenting on salvage and its disposal wherever necessary.
- (2) A surveyor or loss assessor whether appointed by insurer or insured, shall submit his report to the insurer as expeditiously as possible, but not later than 30 days of his appointment, with a copy of the report to the insured giving his comments on the insured's consent or otherwise on the assessment of loss. Where, in special circumstances of the case, either due to its special and complicated nature, the surveyor shall under intimation to the insured, seek an extension, in any case not exceeding six months from the insurer for submission of his report.
- (3) In cases where the Survey report is pending due to non-completion of documents, the surveyor may issue the Final Survey report independently based on the available documents on record, giving minimum three reminders in writing to the insured.
- (4) If an insurer, on the receipt of a survey report, and that it is incomplete in any respect, he shall require the surveyor under intimation to the insured, to furnish an additional report on such incomplete issues. Such a request may be made by the insurer within 15 days of the receipt of the original survey report. Provided that the facility of calling for an additional report by the insurer shall not be resorted to more than once in the case of a claim.
- (5) The surveyor on receipt of this communication shall furnish an additional report within three weeks of the date of receipt of communication from the insurer.