

RISK MANAGEMENT BULLETIN

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The Effect of Incorrect Vehicle Identification Numbers (VIN) on Processing Your Insurance Coverage

A car's vehicle identification number (VIN) is the automotive equivalent of human DNA. It sets vehicles apart from millions of other vehicles out there. It displays a car's uniqueness and heritage and provides a form of factory to scrap yard identification. It can be used to track recalls, registrations, warranty claims, thefts, and in our circumstance, insurance coverage.

When a member provides an incorrect VIN with their request to schedule newly added vehicles, it can lead to problems; not only with claims processing, and now that we report member vehicle schedules to the MVA via the internet, problems with improper registration may arise. For example: if the operator of a vehicle owned by a county or a municipality is subject to a routine traffic stop, one may encounter unexpected complications if that vehicle is not accurately recorded in the MVA database.

When a claim is submitted regarding a vehicle, its VIN identifies it through the LGIT coverage process. An erroneous VIN may stop or delay the claims process, thus affecting coverage in some way.

Please make every effort to submit the correct VIN for newly added vehicles so when a claim arises it will make the claim correct and processed without delay.

If you have questions concerning this issue, please contact your underwriter or Herbert H. (Hank) Schomburg, Director, Loss Control & Underwriting.

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This bulletin is intended to be merely informational and is not intended to be used as the basis for any compliance with Federal, State or local laws, regulations or rules, nor is it intended to substitute for the advice of legal counsel.

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