

## Chapter 24

### Managing General Agents

A managing general agent (MGA) is an insurance producer authorized by an insurance company to manage all or part of the insurer's business in a specific geographic territory. Activities on behalf of the insurer may include marketing, underwriting, issuing policies, collecting premiums, appointing and supervising other agents, paying claims, and negotiating reinsurance. Many states regulate the activities and contracts of MGAs.

The NAIC has adopted the *Managing General Agents Act* (#225) to guide the states in regulating MGAs. Under the model, an MGA is defined as any person who engages in all of the following:

1. Negotiates and binds ceding reinsurance contracts on behalf of an insurer or manages all or part of the insurance business of an insurer—including the management of a separate division, department or underwriting office—and who acts as an agent for such insurer whether known as a managing general agent, manager or other similar term or title.
2. With or without authority and either separately or together with affiliates, directly or indirectly produces and underwrites an amount of gross direct written premium equal to or greater than 5% of the policyholder surplus in any one quarter or year, as reported in the last annual statement of the insurer.
3. Engages in either or both of the following:
  - (a) Adjusts or pays claims in excess of an amount determined by the insurance commissioner.
  - (b) Negotiates reinsurance on behalf of the insurer.

Under the model, an MGA does not include any of the following:

1. An employee of the insurer.
2. A manager of a U.S. branch of an alien insurer who resides in this country.
3. An underwriting manager who, pursuant to contract, manages all insurance operations of the insurer, who is under common control with the insurer, subject to [cite to state law] relating to the regulation of insurance holding company systems, and who is not compensated based upon the volume of premiums written.
4. An insurance company, in connection with the acceptance or rejection of reinsurance on a block of business.
5. The attorney-in-fact authorized by or acting for the subscribers of a reciprocal insurer or interinsurance exchange under a power of attorney.

In most states, MGAs must be licensed as producers and are not allowed to place business until a written contract exists among all parties. Under Model #225, insurers are required to monitor the financial stability of MGAs under contract.