

(4) SHALL BE IDENTICAL TO THE COVERAGE OFFERED UNDER THE GROUP CONTRACT TO SIMILARLY SITUATED INDIVIDUALS WHERE THERE HAS BEEN NO APPLICABLE CHANGE IN STATUS; AND

(5) SHALL BE AVAILABLE TO THE SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN OF THE INSURED IF:

(I) THE GROUP CONTRACT PROVIDES BENEFITS FOR SPOUSES AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN; AND

(II) THE INSURED'S SPOUSE AND DEPENDENT CHILDREN WERE COVERED UNDER THE GROUP CONTRACT PRIOR TO THE APPLICABLE CHANGE IN STATUS.

(F) (1) THE ELECTION PERIOD FOR THE COVERAGE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BEGIN WITH THE DATE ON WHICH THERE HAS BEEN AN APPLICABLE CHANGE IN STATUS AND END NO SOONER THAN 45 DAYS AFTER SUCH DATE.

(2) TO ELECT THE COVERAGE PROVIDED UNDER THIS SECTION, THE INSURED SHALL SUBMIT A SIGNED ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM TO THE EMPLOYER DURING THE ELECTION PERIOD.

(G) (1) EVERY CERTIFICATE ISSUED TO AN INSURED UNDER A GROUP CONTRACT SHALL INCLUDE A STATEMENT, IN A MANNER AND FORM APPROVED BY THE COMMISSIONER, WHICH ADVISES THE INSURED OF THE FOLLOWING:

(I) THE AVAILABILITY OF BENEFITS UNDER THIS SECTION;

(II) A SUMMARY OF THE ELIGIBILITY FOR AND DURATION OF SUCH BENEFITS; AND

(III) THE PROCEDURE FOR MAKING AN ELECTION TO RECEIVE SUCH BENEFITS SHOULD AN APPLICABLE CHANGE IN STATUS OCCUR.

(2) THE EMPLOYER SHALL, WITHIN 14 DAYS FOLLOWING RECEIPT OF A REQUEST, DELIVER OR SEND BY FIRST CLASS MAIL AN ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM TO THE INSURED OR THE INSURED'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE.

(H) THE COMMISSIONER SHALL:

(1) PUBLISH AT LEAST ONCE ANNUALLY IN THE MARYLAND REGISTER AND IN A NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION IN EACH OF THE COUNTIES OF THE STATE AND BALTIMORE CITY NOTICE APPRISING THE PUBLIC OF THE COVERAGE REQUIRED UNDER THIS SECTION;

(2) BY REGULATION PRESCRIBE THE FORM AND CONTENT OF THE ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORM; AND

(3) MAKE ELECTION NOTIFICATION FORMS AVAILABLE TO EVERY EMPLOYER WHOSE EMPLOYEES ARE COVERED BY A GROUP CONTRACT.