


Beyond Auto . . .

Lender-Placed Home Insurance


*Patrick Curtis, ACAS
American Modern Insurance Group*



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What is it?


- Similar to a homeowners policy
- Less coverage (Coverage A and B only)
 - No personal property coverage
 - No liability coverage
- Coverage is limited to the outstanding loan balance
- The lender (not the homeowner) is the named insured



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Who buys this?

- A Lender purchases a policy to cover uninsured properties in its portfolio.
- Homeowners are required to maintain insurance on the home as part of the loan requirements.
- Lenders track their loans to identify which properties are uninsured.
- After the letter cycle, if the homeowner is still uninsured, coverage is forced upon the property.



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Who dictates the letter cycle?



- Dodd-Frank requires two letters (30 days apart). Coverage can be placed 15 days after second letter.
- A similar standard created by the NAIC exists for lender-placed auto insurance.



Example Cycle

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Who pays for it?



- The lender pays premium to the insurer for each force-placed policy.
- The effective date of the policy is the date that previous coverage expired.
- The lender charges the homeowner for the cost of the force-placed coverage.
- The lender-placed coverage is typically cancelled within a year.

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Is This Like the Residual Market?



Similar

- Lender-placed insurance is often an option of last resort and provides minimum required coverage.
- Lender-placed insurance often covers high-loss-cost risks.

Different


- Lender-placed policies cover physical damage – not liability.
- Residual market insurance is “forced” by law, while lender-placed coverage is “forced” by contract.
- Lender-placed insurance is a voluntary product (for the lender) to buy. Companies develop their own program, compete against each other. It is regulated by the state, as opposed to defined by the state.

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How do you rate it?

Classification Considerations


- Underwriting
 - Anyone, anywhere
 - Constant turnover of book
 - Geographic spread of risk
- Program Design
 - Degree of choice
 - Premium payer
- Operational
 - Value of collecting additional data should outweigh the cost



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Why all the regulatory attention?


- The average premium is typically much higher than a homeowners policy (with less coverage)
- Lender-placed insurance is a commercial product (sold to lenders), but it insures the homes of people who may be struggling financially
- Backdated policies
- Ignorance of coverage
- Lack of geographic classification
- Commissions
- **Ultimately, lender-placed insurance requires actuarial involvement, just like auto or homeowners insurance.**



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Questions?

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