



**TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE / FINANCIAL REGULATION DIVISION
FINANCIAL EXAMINATIONS / TITLE EXAMINATIONS**

**SUMMARY OF OPERATIONS FOR THE 2ND QUARTER, FY 2021
DECEMBER 2020 – FEBRUARY 2021**

for presentation to the
**Texas Title Insurance Guaranty Association Board of Directors
APRIL 26, 2021**

COMPLIANCE AUDITS AND ESCROW AUDIT REPORTS

	Qtr	FY 21	FY 20	FY 19	FY 18	FY 17
Field audits completed	53	110	235	286	265	289
Field audit reports processed	47	107	240	269	269	296
Section 2651.151 audit reports received	81	152	596	596	586	558
Section 2651.151 audit reports reviewed	89	160	589	624	553	572

Analysis of Title Insurance Agencies licensed as of 02/28/2021

Region	# of Agencies	Last Comprehensive Audit Status			
		Agencies Audited within last 2 years	Agencies last audit was 2 - 3 years ago	Agent's last audit was over 3 years ago	# of Agents never audited
NTX	263	225	29	0	9
CTX	143	117	17	0	9
WTX	99	92	7	0	0
HOU	146	132	12	0	2
STX	32	30	2	0	0
Totals:	683	596	67	0	20
	% of Total:	87.3%	9.8%	0.0%	2.9%

Goal: Audit each agency once every 2 years.
Audit 50% per year = 342 each year or 86 each quarter.

Last 12 mos. (03/01/20 – 02/28/21): 237 audits (within 105 of goal)
Last 3 mos. (12/01/20 – 02/28/21): 53 audits (within 33 of goal)

EXPERIENCE REPORT LIMITED REVIEWS

Out of 53 comprehensive audits completed during the quarter, 2 (4%) included a limited review of the agent’s latest experience report. The following results were reported.

	QTR	FY 21	FY 20	FY 19	FY 18	FY 17
Number of experience reports reviewed.	2	9	142	130	135	163
1. No material discrepancies noted.	2	9	132	115	124	147
2. Income &/or expenses reported in wrong categories.	0	0	6	3	0	3
3. Total income and/or expense amounts reported did not agree with agency’s financial statements.	0	0	0	10	11	13
4. Wrong firm id number used on report/miscellaneous.	0	0	1	2	0	0

Commissioner Orders signed during the quarter: 0

Active cases in Financial, Enforcement & Fraud:

	Active cases at 11/30/20	Cases referred Qtr. 21-2	Cases cleared Qtr. 21-2	Active cases at 02/28/21
Financial				
Receivership	3	0	0	3
Troubled title agents	4	0	0	4
Enforcement				
Miscellaneous violations of the TIC	1	0	0	1
Rebating	0	0	0	0
License revocation (agent and/or escrow officer)	2	2	0	4
Late escrow audit rept. &/or stat rept. &/or guaranty fees	1	0	0	1
Fraud Unit				
Misappropriation of fiduciary funds	29	0	0	29
Total	40	2	0	42

RESULTS OF COMPLIANCE AUDITS DURING QUARTER

Listed below are audit findings for December 2020 through February 2021, for the 2nd quarter of the State’s fiscal year 2021. Numbers represent the number of agencies where the infraction occurred, not the number of times it occurred.

VIOLATION OR DISCREPANCY	QTR	YTD
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INSOLVENCY

Financial statements indicated agent was insolvent or had cash flow problems.	1	2
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ABSTRACT PLANT

Abstract plant not in compliance with Section 2601.004 & Procedural Rule P-12.	7	13
Agency unable to retrieve instrument information. Unable to verify legal plant.	1	1

TEXAS INSURANCE CODE

§ 101.102 – Conducted unauthorized business of insurance.	0	1
Administrative Rule L-2: Escrow officer appointments not canceled timely.	2	11
Section 2502.051 – Gave/received thing of value for referral of title insurance business.	1	2
Section 2651.001 – Issued policies for property in county where not licensed.	6	12
Section 2704.001 – Policy not based on evidence from a legal abstract plant and/or no attempt made to contact out-of-county agents for title evidence.	0	0
Section 2704.001 – Signed commitments not maintained as part of complete evidence of insurability or countersigned policies not maintained.	5	7
Section 2651.008 – Agent used an unlicensed name or dba name.	0	1
Section 2651.301 – Misappropriation or conversion of escrow funds.	0	0
Section 2651.301 – Failed to maintain separate escrow account (commingled escrow & operating funds).	6	11
Section 2651.101 and/or 2652.101 – No agency/escrow officer bond or insufficient bond.	5	8
Section 2651.151 – Annual escrow audit report prepared incorrectly or contained material inaccuracies or other problems.	2	10
Section 2652.001 – Unlicensed person acting as an escrow officer.	3	10
VIOLATION OR DISCREPANCY	QTR	YTD
Section 2602.151 and Administrative Rule G-1 – Failure to collect Policy Guaranty Fee or failure to maintain the policy fees in an escrow account.	5	16
Section 2602.103 – Failure to produce requested files or other records.	0	0
Section 2702.052 – Used non-promulgated forms.	2	7
Section 2702.053 – Actual receipts and/or disbursements not in agreement with settlement statement or premium split not disclosed.	35	67

TITLE BULLETINS

Title Bulletin No. 152 – Policy dates incorrect.	0	1
Title Bulletin No. 160 – All parties receiving portions of the real estate commission not disclosed on settlement statement.	15	33

PROCEDURAL RULES

P-2: Shortages in Area amended without proper T-47 and prior survey	0	1
P-17: Electronic Signature used on non-promulgated form.	0	0
P-18: Commitment not issued as required in rule or commitment incomplete.	1	1
P-21: Schedule D of commitment not in file or premium split not disclosed on commitment.	20	47
P-22: No T-00's in files or T-00's incorrect or incomplete.	18	44
P-27 (“Good Funds”) violations: Unauthorized checks over \$1,500. Receipts not deposited timely or not received and posted before disbursements made.	6	12
P-35: Verbal or written guaranty, affirmation, indemnification, or certification issued.	3	8
P-61: Failure to issue title policy timely.	4	6
P-73: Failure to prepare/maintain Form T-64 (TD) when CD used.	19	46

RATE RULES

Incorrect premium charged (violation of one or more rate rules).	9	22
R-1: Unauthorized fee charged for closing (or tax search) in addition to premium.	1	4
R-2: Premium remittances to underwriters not timely or amounts incorrect.	5	8
R-2: Premium collected in installments or premium not collected at all.	1	1
R-8: Refinance credit not given or not calculated correctly.	9	20

MINIMUM ESCROW ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES & INTERNAL CONTROLS

#1 - Monthly escrow trial balances not prepared or not prepared timely.	3	7
#1 - Testing proved escrow trial balances unreliable.	1	1
#1 - Escrow trial balances not prepared correctly.	14	27
#2 - Three-way reconciliations not prepared or not prepared timely or records unavailable.	2	6
#2 - Escrow trial balances and/or book balances and/or reconciled bank balances not in agreement. Differences unreconciled.	1	1
#2 - Bank reconciliations, book balances, or three-way reconciliations prepared incorrectly.	14	28
#3 – Reconciliations not approved by management or reviewed by another employee.	5	5
#4 - Accounting duties not segregated sufficiently, and reconciliations not reviewed by manager or owner.	1	1
#5 - Only one signature on escrow checks when agency’s size required two signatures.	3	10
#6 - Records did not include copies of all checks, invoices, deposit slips and receipt items.	10	20
#7A - Invested escrow accounts not styled correctly.	0	4
#7B - No written authorization to invest escrow funds.	0	1
#7C - Invested escrow account used agent’s tax ID number instead of that of beneficiary.	0	3
#7D – No control ledger for invested escrow accounts. Interest not posted timely.	1	2
#8 - Guaranty files used name identification instead of unique numbers. Same file number used for more than one transaction.	1	1
VIOLATION OR DISCREPANCY	QTR	YTD
#9 - Escrow bank accounts not styled as “escrow” or “trust”.	4	14
#10 - No management approval for disbursements made on accounts open for more than six months or no review for disposition of funds.	6	9
#11 – Voided check did not have signature block removed to render check ineffective.	1	2
#12 - No management approval for transfers of funds between guaranty files and/or transfers not documented in the files.	1	2
#13 - Seller not properly notified of NSF checks.	0	0
#14 - Guaranty file number not displayed on all escrow checks or deposit tickets.	0	1
#15 – Disbursement sheets missing, incomplete or incorrect.	15	27
#16 - Every disbursement not supported by invoice or sufficient other evidence.	21	52
#17 - Escrow receivables not cleared timely.	6	13
#18 – Settlement statement changes not initialed or supported adequately or contained white-out corrections.	1	1
#19 – Signed, pre-numbered receipts not issued for cash.	0	4
#20 – Images of checks did not meet requirements.	0	1
#21 – Escrow bank account not maintained at a financial institution in Texas.	1	1

AGENCY

Agent breached fiduciary responsibility to buyer and seller by engaging in “self-dealing”.	0	0
Failed to disclose affiliated business arrangement as required by RESPA § 3500.15.	7	11

ESCROW ACCOUNTING

Material escrow funds irregularity or irregularities [i.e., escrow account overdrawn, receipt posted but never actually received or check-clearing date problems].	0	0
Deposits and/or disbursements not booked in appropriate month.	1	2
Receivable(s) created by depositing into one bank account and disbursing from another account.	1	1

Reconciling items not posted timely and/or not cleared timely and/or not supported by adequate documentation.	4	4
Pattern of posting errors.	0	0
Signature on checks not on bank signature card or previous employees still on bank signature card.	2	4
Outstanding checks not cleared timely.	23	54
Deposit-in-transit list and/or outstanding check list prepared incorrectly.	14	25

GUARANTY FILES

Original legal documents found in guaranty files after title policies issued.	0	0
Legal documents not recorded timely with county clerk or evidence of timely recording not in file.	13	26
Cash or disbursement check found in file.	0	1
Funds not disbursed or escheated to state.	8	20
Notary fee used. No prior written authorization obtained. (SAAP#5)	6	14

MINIMUM CAPITALIZATION RULES

S.1: Form T-S1 not submitted or agent failed to meet Min. Cap. requirement.	7	21
S.2: Solvency account deposits not calculated correctly.	1	2
S.5: Quarterly tax report not submitted timely.	8	16