
Central Valley Ag Cooperative

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CERTIFICATE

SHORT TERM DISABILITY INCOME BENEFIT PROGRAM

Program Sponsor has established a short term disability income benefit Program and agreed to provide STD Benefits according to the terms of this Certificate. Program Sponsor is solely responsible for payment of STD Benefits payable under the terms of the Program.

Program Sponsor has retained Standard Insurance Company as Claims Administrator for the Program. Standard shall receive, process, investigate and evaluate claims for benefits. Standard has authority to make initial decisions to approve, deny or close claims for benefits. Standard is also authorized to review and decide appeals of denied or closed claims, if requested by claimants as provided in the appeal provision of the Program. Thereafter, Program Sponsor may elect to hear and decide any further appeals by claimants. In each case, Program Sponsor retains the right of final review and decision on all claims and appeals.

Standard will also perform certain administrative services for the Program, including advising and assisting Program Sponsor with preparation and revision of the Program and providing actuarial services. Standard has no authority or obligation with respect to management or investment of the assets of the Program or Program Sponsor's right of subrogation under the Program.

You will be covered as provided by the terms of the Program. Possession of this Certificate does not necessarily mean you are covered. You are covered only if you meet the requirements set out in this Certificate.

Program Sponsor has the right at any time to amend or terminate the Program or to require or change the amount of Member contributions. If your coverage is changed by an amendment to the Program, Program Sponsor will provide you with a revised Certificate or other notice. No agent has authority to change the Program or to waive any of its provisions.

All provisions on this and the following pages are part of this Program. "You" and "your" mean the Member. "We", "us", and "our" mean Standard Insurance Company acting in its capacity as Claims Administrator on behalf of the Program Sponsor. Other defined terms appear with their initial letters capitalized. Section headings, and references to them, appear in boldface type.

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COVERAGE FEATURES

This section contains many of the features of your short term disability (STD) coverage. Other provisions, including exclusions, limitations, and Deductible Income appear in other sections. Please refer to the text of each section for full details. The Table of Contents and the Index of Defined Terms help locate sections and definitions.

GENERAL PROGRAM INFORMATION

Program Sponsor: Central Valley Ag Cooperative
Employer(s): Central Valley Ag Cooperative
CVA Transport
Claims Administrator: Standard Insurance Company
ASO Number: 754442-A
Program Effective Date: January 1, 2017

Member means:

1. A regular employee of the Employer;
2. Actively At Work at least 40 hours each week (for purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as the person is capable of Active Work on those days); and
3. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

Member does not include a temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country, a leased employee, or an independent contractor.

Class Definition: None

SCHEDULE OF COVERAGE

Eligibility Waiting Period: You are eligible on the first day of the calendar month following the date you become a Member.

Eligibility Waiting Period means the period you must be a Member before you become eligible for coverage.

Your Eligibility Waiting Period will be reduced by any continuous period as an employee of the Employer immediately prior to the date you become a Member.

STD Benefit:

You may be enrolled under any one of the following plans. You will be enrolled under Plan 1 unless you elect Plan 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 or 7.

Plan 1: 66 2/3% of the first \$600 of your Predisability Earnings, reduced by Deductible Income.

Plan 2: 66 2/3% of the first \$750 of your Predisability Earnings, reduced by Deductible Income.

Plan 3: 66 2/3% of the first \$900 of your Predisability Earnings, reduced by Deductible Income.

Plan 4: 66 2/3% of the first \$1,050 of your Predisability Earnings, reduced by Deductible Income.

Plan 5: 66 2/3% of the first \$1,200 of your Predisability Earnings, reduced by Deductible Income.

Plan 6: 66 2/3% of the first \$1,350 of your Predisability Earnings, reduced by Deductible Income.

Plan 7: 66 2/3% of the first \$1,500 of your Predisability Earnings, reduced by Deductible Income.

Maximum:

Plan 1: \$400 before reduction by Deductible Income.

Plan 2: \$500 before reduction by Deductible Income.

Plan 3: \$600 before reduction by Deductible Income.

Plan 4: \$700 before reduction by Deductible Income.

Plan 5: \$800 before reduction by Deductible Income.

Plan 6: \$900 before reduction by Deductible Income.

Plan 7: \$1,000 before reduction by Deductible Income.

Minimum: \$15

Benefit Waiting Period: The longer of (a) the period of sick leave for which you are eligible under the Employer's sick leave Program, and (b) one of the following:

For Disability caused by accidental Injury: 13 days

For Disability caused by Physical Disease, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder: 13 days

Enrollment Period for Contributory insurance: The 31-day period beginning on the date you become eligible.

Maximum Benefit Period: 180 days. However, STD Benefits will end on the date long term disability benefits become payable to you under a group plan provided by your Employer, even if that occurs before the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.

If you are Disabled for less than one full week, one-seventh of the STD Benefit will be payable for each day of Disability.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS

Coverage is: Noncontributory

The Employer requires you to have insurance and to pay all or part of the premium for insurance.

Employer contribution level, and pre-tax and post-tax contributions, if any, by the Member, determine the taxability of the benefit amount.

STATEMENT OF COVERAGE

If you become Disabled while covered under the Program, STD Benefits will be payable according to the terms of the Program after we receive Proof Of Loss satisfactory to us.

(ASO) ST.IC.OT.1

BECOMING COVERED

To become covered you must be a Member, complete your Eligibility Waiting Period, and meet the requirements in **Active Work Provisions** and **When Your Coverage Becomes Effective**.

You are a Member if you are:

1. A regular employee of the Employer;
2. Actively At Work at least 40 hours each week (for purposes of the Member definition, Actively At Work will include regularly scheduled days off, holidays, or vacation days, so long as you are capable of Active Work on those days); and
3. A citizen or resident of the United States or Canada.

You are not a Member if you are a temporary or seasonal employee, a full-time member of the armed forces of any country, a leased employee, or an independent contractor.

Eligibility Waiting Period means the period you must be a Member before you become eligible for coverage. Your Eligibility Waiting Period is shown in the **Coverage Features**.

(ASO_VAR MBR DEF) ST.BI.OT.1

WHEN YOUR COVERAGE BECOMES EFFECTIVE

A. When Coverage Becomes Effective

Subject to the **Active Work Provisions**, your coverage becomes effective as follows:

1. Coverage Subject To Medical History

Coverage subject to Medical History becomes effective on the date we approve your Medical History.

2. Coverage Not Subject To Medical History

The **Coverage Features** states whether coverage is Contributory or Noncontributory.

a. Noncontributory Coverage

Noncontributory coverage not subject to Medical History becomes effective on the date you become eligible.

b. Contributory Coverage

You must apply in writing for Contributory coverage and agree to pay Member contributions. Contributory coverage not subject to Medical History becomes effective on:

- i. The date you become eligible if you apply on or before that date; or
- ii. The date you apply if you apply after the date you become eligible.

B. Medical History Requirement

Medical History satisfactory to us is required:

- a. For Members eligible for more than 31 days but not covered under the Prior Plan.

b. For reinstatements if required.

Providing Medical History means you must:

1. Complete and sign our Medical History statement;
2. Sign our form authorizing us to obtain information about your health;
3. Undergo a physical examination, if required by us, which may include blood testing; and
4. Provide any additional information about your medical history that we may reasonably require.

(VAR EOI_ASO_WITH 60 DAY PD) ST.EF.OT.3

ACTIVE WORK PROVISIONS

A. Active Work Requirement

You must be capable of Active Work on the day before the scheduled effective date of your coverage or your coverage will not become effective as scheduled. If you are incapable of Active Work because of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder on the day before the scheduled effective date of your coverage, your coverage will not become effective until the day after you complete one full day of Active Work as an eligible Member.

Active Work and Actively At Work mean performing with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of your Own Occupation at your Employer's usual place of business.

B. Changes In Coverage

This Active Work requirement also applies to any increase in your coverage.

(ASO) ST.AW.OT.1

WHEN YOUR COVERAGE ENDS

Your coverage ends automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date the last period ends for which a contribution was made for your coverage.
2. The date the Program terminates.
3. The date your employment terminates.
4. The date you cease to be a Member. However, your coverage will be continued during the following periods when you are absent from Active Work, unless it ends under any of the above.
 - a. During the first 90 days of a temporary or indefinite administrative or involuntary leave of absence or sick leave, provided your Employer is paying you at least the same Predisability Earnings paid to you immediately before you ceased to be a Member. A period when you are absent from Active Work as part of a severance or other employment termination agreement is not a leave of absence, even if you are receiving the same Predisability Earnings.
 - b. During a leave of absence if continuation of your coverage under the Program is required by a state-mandated family or medical leave act or law.
 - c. During any other temporary leave of absence approved by your Employer in advance and in writing and scheduled to last 30 days or less. A period of Disability is not a leave of absence.
 - d. During the Benefit Waiting Period and while STD Benefits are payable.

(ASO) ST.EN.OT.1

REINSTATEMENT OF COVERAGE

If your coverage ends, you may become covered again as a new Member. However, the following will apply:

1. If you cease to be a Member because of a Disability that is not covered solely because of the exclusion for work related Disabilities, your coverage will end. However, if you become a Member again immediately after workers' compensation temporary benefits end, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.
2. If your coverage ends because you cease to be a Member for any reason other than item 1 above, and if you become a Member again within 90 days, the Eligibility Waiting Period will be waived.
3. If your coverage ends because you fail to make a required Member contribution, you must provide a satisfactory Medical History to become covered again.
4. If your coverage ends because you are on a federal or state-mandated family or medical leave of absence, and you become a Member again immediately following the period allowed, your coverage will be reinstated pursuant to the federal or state-mandated family or medical leave act or law.
5. In no event will coverage be retroactive.

(ASO_NONOCC) ST.RE.OT.4

DEFINITION OF DISABILITY

You are Disabled if you meet the following Own Occupation definition of Disability:

You are required to be Disabled only from your Own Occupation. You are Disabled from your Own Occupation if, as a result of Physical Disease, Injury, Pregnancy or Mental Disorder:

1. You are unable to perform with reasonable continuity the Material Duties of your Own Occupation; and
2. You suffer a loss of at least 20% in your Predisability Earnings when working in your Own Occupation for your Employer.

Own Occupation means the job you are regularly performing for your Employer when Disability begins.

Material Duties means the usual duties you perform in your regular job with your Employer, that cannot be reasonably modified or omitted. In no event will we consider working more than 8 hours per day or an average of more than 40 hours per week to be a Material Duty.

(OWN_JOB_DEF_WITH_40) ST.DD.AK.1

RETURN TO WORK PROVISIONS

A. Return To Work Responsibility

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are able to work in your Own Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your Predisability Earnings, but you elect not to work.

B. Return To Work Incentive

You may serve your Benefit Waiting Period while working if you meet the Own Occupation definition of Disability.

You are eligible for the Return To Work Incentive on the first day you work after the Benefit Waiting Period if STD Benefits are payable on that date.

Your Work Earnings will be Deductible Income as determined in 1., 2. and 3.

1. Determine the amount of your STD Benefit as if there were no Deductible Income, and add your Work Earnings to that amount.
2. Determine 100% of your Predisability Earnings.
3. If 1. is greater than 2., the difference will be Deductible Income.

C. Work Earnings Definition

Work Earnings means your gross weekly earnings from work you perform while Disabled, plus the earnings you could receive if you worked as much as you are able to, considering your Disability, in work that is reasonably available in your Own Occupation. Work Earnings includes sick pay, vacation pay, annual or personal leave pay or other salary continuation earned or accrued while working.

Earnings from work you perform will be included in Work Earnings when you have the right to receive them. If you are paid in a lump sum or on a basis other than weekly, we will prorate your Work Earnings over the period of time to which they apply. If no period of time is stated, we will use a reasonable one.

In determining your Work Earnings we:

1. Will use the financial accounting method you use for income tax purposes, if you use that method on a consistent basis.
2. Will not be limited to the taxable income you report to the Internal Revenue Service.
3. May ignore expenses under section 179 of the IRC as a deduction from your gross earnings.
4. May ignore depreciation as a deduction from your gross earnings.
5. May adjust the financial information you give us in order to clearly reflect your Work Earnings.

If we determine that your earnings vary substantially from week to week, we may determine your Work Earnings by averaging your earnings over the most recent four-week period. You will no longer be Disabled when your average Work Earnings over the last four weeks exceed of your Predisability Earnings.

(RTW RESP) ST.RW.OT.2

TEMPORARY RECOVERY

You may temporarily recover from your Disability during the Maximum Benefit Period, and then become Disabled again from the same cause or causes, without having to serve a new Benefit Waiting Period. Temporary Recovery means you cease to be Disabled for no longer than the applicable allowable period. See **Definition Of Disability**.

A. Allowable Period

The allowable period of recovery during the Maximum Benefit Period is: a total of 90 days of recovery.

B. Effect Of Temporary Recovery

If your Temporary Recovery does not exceed the Allowable Period, the following will apply.

1. The Predisability Earnings used to determine your STD Benefit will not change.
2. The period of Temporary Recovery will not count toward your Maximum Benefit Period.
3. No STD Benefits will be payable for the period of Temporary Recovery.
4. No STD Benefits will be payable after benefits become payable to you under any other disability coverage plan under which you become covered during your period of recovery.

5. Except as stated above, the provisions of the Program will be applied as if there had been no interruption of your Disability.

(ASO) ST.TR.OT.2

WHEN STD BENEFITS END

Your STD Benefits end automatically on the earliest of:

1. The date you are no longer Disabled.
2. The date your Maximum Benefit Period ends.
3. The date you die.
4. The date long term disability benefits become payable to you under a group long term disability insurance policy issued to Program Sponsor as policyholder, even if that occurs before the end of the Maximum Benefit Period.
5. The date benefits become payable to you under any other disability plan under which you become covered through employment during a period of Temporary Recovery.
6. The date you fail to provide proof of continued Disability and entitlement to STD Benefits.

(ASO_REV LTD LIM) ST.BE.OT.3

PREDISABILITY EARNINGS

Your Predisability Earnings will be based on your earnings in effect on your last full day of Active Work. Any subsequent change in your earnings will not affect your Predisability Earnings.

Predisability Earnings means your weekly rate of earnings from your Employer, including:

1. Contributions you make through a salary reduction agreement with your Employer to:
 - a. An Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 401(k), 403(b), 408(k), 408(p), or 457 deferred compensation arrangement; or
 - b. An executive nonqualified deferred compensation arrangement.
2. Commissions averaged over the prior 52 weeks or over the period of your employment if less than 52 weeks.
3. Shift differential pay.
4. Amounts contributed to your fringe benefits according to a salary reduction agreement under an IRC Section 125 plan.

Predisability Earnings does not include:

1. Bonuses.
2. Overtime pay.
3. Stock options or stock bonuses.
4. Your Employer's contributions on your behalf to any deferred compensation arrangement or pension plan.
5. Any other extra compensation.

If you are paid on an annual contract basis, your weekly rate of earnings is one fifty-second (1/52nd) of your annual contract salary.

If you are paid hourly, your weekly rate of earnings is based on your hourly pay rate multiplied by the number of hours you are regularly scheduled to work per week, but not more than 40 hours. If you do not have regular work hours, your weekly rate of earnings is based on the average number of hours you worked per week during the preceding 52 weeks (or during your period of employment if less than 52 weeks), but not more than 40 hours.

(REG WITH COM_NO STOCK) ST.PD.OT.1

DEDUCTIBLE INCOME

Subject to **Exceptions To Deductible Income**, Deductible Income means:

1. Sick pay, annual or personal leave pay, severance pay, or other salary continuation, including donated amounts, (but not vacation pay) paid to you by your Employer, if it exceeds the amount found in a., b., and c.
 - a. Determine the amount of your STD Benefit as if there were no Deductible Income, and add your sick pay or other salary continuation to that amount.
 - b. Determine 100% of your Predisability Earnings.
 - c. If a. is greater than b., the difference will be Deductible Income.
2. Your Work Earnings, as described in the **Return To Work Provisions**.
3. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive because of your disability under a state disability income benefit law or similar law.
4. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive because of your disability under another group coverage.
6. Any disability or retirement benefits you receive under your Employer's retirement plan.
7. Any earnings or compensation included in Predisability Earnings which you receive or are eligible to receive while STD Benefits are payable.
8. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive under any unemployment compensation law or similar act or law.
9. Any amount you receive or are eligible to receive from or on behalf of a third party because of your disability, whether by judgment, settlement or other method. If you notify us before filing suit or settling your claim against such third party, the amount used as Deductible Income will be reduced by a pro rata share of your costs of recovery, including reasonable attorney fees.
10. Any amount you receive by compromise, settlement, or other method as a result of a claim for any of the above, whether disputed or undisputed.

(ASO_PRIV_NONOCC_WITH RTW_NO OTHR OFFST_WITH 3RD) ST.DI.OT.1

EXCEPTIONS TO DEDUCTIBLE INCOME

Deductible Income does not include:

1. Any cost of living increase in any Deductible Income other than Work Earnings, if the increase becomes effective while you are Disabled and while you are eligible for the Deductible Income.
2. Reimbursement for hospital, medical, or surgical expense.
3. Reasonable attorneys fees incurred in connection with a claim for Deductible Income.
4. Benefits from any individual disability insurance policy.
5. Group credit or mortgage disability insurance benefits.

6. Accelerated death benefits paid under a life coverage plan or life insurance policy.
7. Benefits from the following:
 - a. Profit sharing plan.
 - b. Thrift or savings plan.
 - c. Deferred compensation plan.
 - d. Plan under IRC Section 401(k), 408(k), 408(p), or 457.
 - e. Individual Retirement Account (IRA).
 - f. Tax Sheltered Annuity (TSA) under IRC Section 403(b).
 - g. Stock ownership plan.
 - h. Keogh (HR-10) plan.
8. The following amounts under your Employer's retirement plan:
 - a. A lump sum distribution of your entire interest in the plan.
 - b. Any amount which is attributable to your contributions to the plan.
 - c. Any amount you could have received upon termination of employment without being disabled or retired.

(ASO_PRIV_NO OTHR OFFST) ST.ED.OT.1

RULES FOR DEDUCTIBLE INCOME

A. Weekly Equivalents

Each week we will determine your STD Benefit using the Deductible Income for the same weekly period, even if you actually receive the Deductible Income in another week.

If you are paid Deductible Income in a lump sum or by a method other than weekly, we will determine your STD Benefit using a prorated amount. We will use the period of time to which the Deductible Income applies. If no period of time is stated, we will use a reasonable one.

B. Your Duty To Pursue Deductible Income

You must pursue Deductible Income for which you may be eligible. We may ask for written documentation of your pursuit of Deductible Income. You must provide it within 60 days after we mail you our request. Otherwise, we may reduce your STD Benefits by the amount we estimate you would be eligible to receive upon proper pursuit of the Deductible Income.

C. Pending Deductible Income

We will not deduct pending Deductible Income until it becomes payable. You must notify us of the amount of the Deductible Income when it is approved. You must repay us for the resulting overpayment of your claim.

D. Overpayment Of Claim

We will notify you of the amount of any overpayment of your claim under the Program. You must immediately repay any overpayment. You will not receive any STD Benefits until the overpayment has been repaid in full. In the meantime, any STD Benefits paid, including the Minimum STD Benefit, will be applied to reduce the amount of the overpayment. We may charge you interest at the legal rate for any overpayment which is not repaid within 30 days after we first mail you notice of the amount of the overpayment.

(ASO) ST.RU.OT.2

SUBROGATION

If STD Benefits are paid or payable to you under the Program as the result of any act or omission of a third party, Program Sponsor will be subrogated to all rights of recovery you may have in respect to such act or omission. You must execute and deliver to Program Sponsor such instruments and papers as may be required and do whatever else is needed to secure such rights. You must avoid doing anything that would prejudice Program Sponsor's rights of subrogation.

If you notify Program Sponsor before filing suit or settling your claim against such third party, the amount to which Program Sponsor is subrogated will be reduced by a pro rata share of your costs of recovery, including reasonable attorney fees. If suit or action is filed, Program Sponsor may record a notice of payments of STD Benefits, and such notice shall constitute a lien on any judgment recovered.

If you or your legal representative fail to bring suit or action promptly against such third party, Program Sponsor may institute such suit or action in Program Sponsor's name or in your name. Program Sponsor is entitled to retain from any judgment recovered the amount of STD Benefits paid or to be paid to you or on your behalf, together with Program Sponsor's costs of recovery, including attorney fees. The remainder of such recovery, if any, shall be paid to you or as the court may direct.

(ASO) ST.SG.OT.1

BENEFITS AFTER COVERAGE ENDS OR IS CHANGED

During each period of continuous Disability, STD Benefits will be payable according to the terms of the Program in effect on the date you become Disabled. Your right to receive STD Benefits will not be affected by:

1. Any amendment to the Program that is effective after you become Disabled; or
2. Termination of the Program after you become Disabled.

ST.BA.OT.1

EFFECT OF NEW DISABILITY

If a period of Disability is extended by a new cause while STD Benefits are payable, STD Benefits will continue while you remain Disabled. However, 1 and 2 below will apply.

1. STD Benefits will not continue beyond the end of the original Maximum Benefit Period.
2. All provisions of the Program, including the **Disabilities Excluded From Coverage** and **Limitations** sections, will apply to the new cause of Disability.

(ASO) ST.ND.OT.1

DISABILITIES EXCLUDED FROM COVERAGE

A. War

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by War or any act of War. War means declared or undeclared war, whether civil or international, and any substantial armed conflict between organized forces of a military nature.

B. Intentionally Self-Inflicted Injury

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by an intentionally self-inflicted Injury, while sane or insane.

C. Work Related

You are not covered for a Disability arising out of or in the course of any employment for wage or profit.

D. Violent Or Criminal Conduct

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by your committing or attempting to commit an assault or felony, or actively participating in a violent disorder or riot. Actively participating does not include being at the scene of a violent disorder or riot while performing your official duties.

E. Loss Of License Or Certification

You are not covered for a Disability caused or contributed to by the loss of your professional license, occupational license or certification.

(NONOCC) ST.XD.OT.1

LIMITATIONS

A. Care Of A Physician

You must be under the ongoing care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty as determined by us during the Benefit Waiting Period. No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are not under the ongoing care of a Physician in the appropriate specialty as determined by us.

B. Occupational Benefits

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period when you are eligible to receive benefits for your Disability under a workers' compensation law or similar law. If your claim for these benefits is accepted, compromised or settled (whether disputed or undisputed), you must repay us for the full amount of any payments Program Sponsor makes to you while your claim for occupational benefits is pending.

C. Imprisonment

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are confined for any reason in a penal or correctional institution.

D. Return To Work Responsibility

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are able to work in your Own Occupation and able to earn at least 20% of your Predisability Earnings, but you elect not to work.

E. Rehabilitation Program

No STD Benefits will be paid for any period of Disability when you are not participating in good faith in a plan, program or course of medical treatment or vocational training or education approved by us unless your Disability prevents you from participating.

(ASO_NONOCC_RTW RSP_MAND REHB) ST.LM.OT.1

CLAIMS

A. Filing A Claim

Claims should be filed on our forms. If you do not receive our forms within 15 days after you ask for them, you may submit your claim in a letter to us. The letter should include the date Disability began, and the cause and nature of the Disability.

B. Time Limits On Filing Proof Of Loss

You must give us Proof Of Loss within 90 days after the end of the Benefit Waiting Period. If you cannot do so, you must give it to us as soon as reasonably possible, but not later than one year after that 90-day period. If Proof Of Loss is filed outside these time limits, your claim will be denied. These limits will not apply while you lack legal capacity.

C. Proof Of Loss

Proof Of Loss means written proof that you are Disabled and entitled to STD Benefits. Proof Of Loss must be provided at your expense.

For claims of Disability due to conditions other than Mental Disorders, we may require proof of physical impairment that results from anatomical or physiological abnormalities which are demonstrable by medically acceptable clinical and laboratory diagnostic techniques.

D. Documentation

Completed claims statements, a signed authorization for us to obtain information, and any other items we may reasonably require in support of a claim must be submitted at your expense. If the required documentation is not provided within 45 days after we mail our request, your claim may be denied.

E. Investigation Of Claim

We may investigate your claim at any time.

At our expense, we may have you examined at reasonable intervals by specialists of our choice. We may deny or suspend STD Benefits if you fail to attend an examination or cooperate with the examiner.

F. Time Of Payment

Program Sponsor will pay STD Benefits within 60 days after you satisfy Proof Of Loss.

STD Benefits will be paid to you at the end of each week you qualify for them. STD Benefits remaining unpaid at your death will be paid to your estate.

G. Notice Of Decision On Claim

We will evaluate your claim promptly after you file it. Within 45 days after we receive your claim we will send you: (a) a written decision on your claim; or (b) a notice that we are extending the period to decide your claim for 30 days. Before the end of this extension period we will send you: (a) a written decision on your claim; or (b) a notice that we are extending the period to decide your claim for an additional 30 days. If an extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim, the extended time period for deciding your claim will not begin until you provide the information or otherwise respond.

If we extend the period to decide your claim, we will notify you of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide your claim; (c) an explanation of the standards on which entitlement to benefits is based; (d) the unresolved issues preventing a decision; and (e) any additional information we need to resolve those issues.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may decide your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Program on which our decision is based.
- c. A description of any additional information needed to support your claim.

H. Review Procedure

If all or part of a claim is denied, you may request a review. You must request a review in writing within 180 days after receiving notice of the denial.

You may send us written comments or other items to support your claim. You may review and receive copies of any non-privileged information that is relevant to your request for review. There will be no charge for such copies. You may request the names of medical or vocational experts who provided advice to us about your claim.

The person conducting the review will be someone other than the person who denied the claim and will not be subordinate to that person. The person conducting the review will not give deference to the initial denial decision. If the denial was based on a medical judgment, the person conducting the review will consult with a qualified health care professional. This health care professional will be someone other than the person who made the original medical judgment and will not be subordinate to that person. Our review will include any written comments or other items you submit to support your claim.

We will review your claim promptly after we receive your request. Within 45 days after we receive your request for review we will send you: (a) a written decision on review; or (b) a notice that we are extending the review period for 45 days. If the extension is due to your failure to provide information necessary to decide the claim on review, the extended time period for review of your claim will not begin until you provide the information or otherwise respond.

If we extend the review period, we will notify you of the following: (a) the reasons for the extension; (b) when we expect to decide your claim on review; and (c) any additional information we need to decide your claim.

If we request additional information, you will have 45 days to provide the information. If you do not provide the requested information within 45 days, we may conclude our review of your claim based on the information we have received.

If we deny any part of your claim on review, you will receive a written notice of denial containing:

- a. The reasons for our decision.
- b. Reference to the parts of the Program on which our decision is based.
- c. Information concerning your right to receive, free of charge, copies of non-privileged documents and records relevant to your claim.

I. Assignment

The rights and benefits under the Program are not assignable.

(ASO_REV PRIV WRDG) ST.CL.OT.2

LIMITED AGENCY APPOINTMENT OF STANDARD

Program Sponsor has appointed Standard to act on its behalf as Claims Administrator for the Program and grants Standard authority to fulfill the Obligations of Claim Administration as provided herein. Standard is empowered to act on behalf of Program Sponsor in connection with the Program only as expressly stated in this Program. Standard has no authority or obligation with respect to (1) an Program Sponsor's right of subrogation under the Program, or (2) management or investment of the assets of the Program. In performing its obligations under this Agreement, Standard is acting solely as the agent of Program Sponsor.

Standard's decisions are subject to the review procedures of the Program Sponsor.

(ASO) ST.AP.OT.1

TIME LIMITS ON LEGAL ACTIONS

No action at law or in equity may be brought until 60 days after you have given us Proof Of Loss. No such action may be brought more than three years after the earlier of:

1. The date we receive Proof Of Loss; and
2. The time within which Proof Of Loss is required to be given.

(ASO) ST.TL.OT.1

CLERICAL ERROR

Clerical error by Program Sponsor, your Employer, Claims Administrator, or their respective employees or representatives will not:

1. Cause a person to become covered.
2. Invalidate coverage under the Program otherwise validly in force.
3. Continue coverage under the Program otherwise validly terminated.

(ASO) ST.CE.OT.2

TERMINATION OR AMENDMENT OF THE PROGRAM

Program Sponsor may terminate the Program in whole, and may terminate coverage for any class or group of Members, at any time.

Benefits under the Program are limited to its terms, including any valid amendment. No change or amendment will be valid unless approved by Program Sponsor and evidenced by an amendment.

No agent has authority to change or amend the Program or to waive any of its terms or provisions.

Any such change or amendment of the Program may apply to current or future Members or to any separate classes or groups of Members.

(ASO) ST.TA.OT.2

DEFINITIONS

Benefit Waiting Period means the period you must be continuously Disabled before STD Benefits become payable. No STD Benefits are payable for the Benefit Waiting Period. See **Coverage Features**.

Contributory means coverage under the Program is elective and Members pay all or part of the cost of coverage.

Employer means an employer (including approved affiliates and subsidiaries) for which coverage under the Program is approved in writing by us.

Hospital means a legally operated hospital providing full-time medical care and treatment under the direction of a full-time staff of licensed physicians. Rest homes, nursing homes, convalescent homes, homes for the aged, and facilities primarily affording custodial, educational, or rehabilitative care are not Hospitals.

Injury means an injury to the body.

L.L.C. Owner-Employee means an individual who owns an equity interest in an Employer and is actively employed in the conduct of the Employer's business.

Maximum Benefit Period means the longest period for which STD Benefits are payable for any one period of continuous Disability, whether from one or more causes. It begins at the end of the Benefit Waiting Period. No STD Benefits are payable after the end of the Maximum Benefit Period, even if you are still Disabled. See **Coverage Features**.

Mental Disorder means any mental, emotional, behavioral, psychological, personality, cognitive, mood or stress-related abnormality, disorder, disturbance, dysfunction or syndrome, regardless of cause (including any biological or biochemical disorder or imbalance of the brain) or the presence of physical symptoms. Mental Disorder includes, but is not limited to, bipolar affective disorder, organic brain syndrome, schizophrenia, psychotic illness, manic depressive illness, depression and depressive disorders, anxiety and anxiety disorders.

Noncontributory means (a) coverage under the Program is nonelective and Program Sponsor or the Employer pay the entire cost of coverage; or (b) Program Sponsor requires all eligible Members who meet the Active Work requirements to have coverage and to pay all or part of the cost of coverage.

P.C. Partner means the sole active employee and majority shareholder of a professional corporation in partnership with Program Sponsor.

Physical Disease means a physical disease entity or process that produces structural or functional changes in your body as diagnosed by a Physician.

Physician means a licensed M.D. or D.O., acting within the scope of the license. Physician does not include you or your spouse, or the brother, sister, parent, or child of either you or your spouse.

Pregnancy means your pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions, including complications of pregnancy.

Prior Plan means your Employer's short term disability Program in effect on the day before the effective date of your Employer's coverage under the Program and which is replaced by the Program.

Program means the group short term disability income benefit Program established by Program Sponsor and identified by the ASO Number.

STD Benefit means the weekly benefit payable to you under the terms of the Program.

(ASO) ST.DF.OT.1

NE/STDC2000 (ASO)