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News Release

UNLICENSED AUSTRALIAN INSURER OPERATING IN KENTUCKY
Products include amusement ride and professional liability

FRANKFORT, Ky. (June 9, 2006) – A company located in Australia is selling insurance products in Kentucky without a certificate of authority from the state. The practice was uncovered after an investigator at the Kentucky Office of Insurance (KOI) received an alert from another state regarding Sinclair Insurance Company Ltd.

Working in conjunction with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, which regulates amusement rides and attractions, KOI has determined that at least two Kentucky businesses have amusement ride/event liability insurance certificates issued by Sinclair.

Sinclair is associated with N.M. SIM Management Ltd. and is an Internet-based business. Its Web site offers professional liability coverage for architects, engineers, contractors, cosmeticians, hairdressers, dental assistants and hygienists, inspectors, medical technicians, nurses, personal trainers, teachers/educators and therapists. In addition, Sinclair offers insurance for auto (Australia only), children's health and life, expatriate health and travel.

"This is an example of why we are part of the national **Stop.Call.Confirm.** campaign," said Glenn Jennings, KOI executive director. "We urge consumers to contact us to verify the legitimacy of any company before purchasing an insurance product. Our efforts to protect Kentuckians become much more difficult when dealing with one of these unauthorized entities."

"It is the responsibility of amusement ride operators to make sure companies from which they buy insurance are authorized to do business in Kentucky," said Wilbur Frye, executive director of the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's Office of Consumer and Environmental Protection.

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Unauthorized insurer

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Nebraska and Washington have filed cease-and-desist orders against Sinclair. Arkansas, Florida, Nevada and Wisconsin are investigating the company.

Kentucky residents who have purchased insurance products from Sinclair Insurance Company should call KOI's toll-free number, (800) 595-6053, and ask to speak to Rodney Hogle in the Consumer Protection and Education Division.