

Medical insurance soon required for all visitors to Cuba

Beginning May 1, 2010, foreigners and Cuban emigrants must carry a travel insurance policy with medical coverage in order to enter Cuba.

Cuba's Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers published the new measure in the nation's Official Gazette on February 16, which also states that foreign citizens who have temporary residence in Cuba must have medical insurance that covers them for the duration of their stay.

Diplomats and representatives of accredited international organizations will be exempt from mandatory insurance.

According to the measure, policies must be purchased from either foreign insurance companies approved by the Cuban government or Cuban firms at points of entry into the country.

Neither a list of approved foreign firms nor the eligibility requirements for approval has been released.

In preparation for the enactment of the measure, we are working with the appropriate authorities to ensure that TIC Travel Insurance Coordinators and Co-operators Life Insurance Company will be on the list of approved firms. In the meantime, TIC travel insurance policies will continue to be recognized in Cuba.

The cost of policies sold by Cuban firms and what they cover has not yet been disclosed.

Tourism is one of Cuba's main sources of income. In 2009, 2.42 million people, including nearly 300,000 Cuban emigrants, visited the island.

We will continue to keep you informed as new information is made available.

With over 60 years experience in the insurance industry, TIC Travel Insurance Coordinators Ltd. is one of the largest travel insurers in Canada and continues to provide coverage for all travellers in any age group to any destination.

TIC is 100% owned by The Co-operators Life Insurance Company which is part of The Co-operators Group Limited, one of Canada's largest, Canadian-owned, multi-product insurers.