

(ii) 8 hours of continuing education per renewal period, if the [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER has held a [certificate of qualification] LICENSE for 25 or more consecutive years.

(3) Subject to paragraph (4) of this subsection, an [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER may satisfy the continuing education requirements of this subsection by submitting to the Commissioner or Commissioner's designee:

(i) proof that the [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER has completed at least 16 hours of continuing education for the applicable renewal period; or

(ii) proof that the [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER has completed at least 8 hours of continuing education for the applicable renewal period and an affidavit that, over the previous 25 consecutive years, the [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER continually:

1. has held [an agent's certificate of qualification or a broker's certificate of qualification] A LICENSE in the State; and

2. has been employed in the selling of insurance in the State.

(4) (i) To increase the level of education of [agents and brokers] INSURANCE PRODUCERS, an [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER shall obtain continuing education in the kind or subdivision of insurance for which the [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER has received a [certificate of qualification] LICENSE.

(ii) Each [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER who possesses a [certificate of qualification] LICENSE to sell health insurance and who sells long-term care insurance shall receive continuing education that directly relates to long-term care insurance.

(5) If continuing education is required, the Commissioner may grant a waiver to an [agent or broker] INSURANCE PRODUCER who has requested a waiver for reasons that the Commissioner determines warrant the waiver.

(6) An insurer may not prohibit one of its [agents] INSURANCE PRODUCERS from obtaining continuing education credits from any course approved by the Commissioner.

(b) The following individuals are exempt from the continuing education requirements under this section:

(1) employees of a health maintenance organization who are employed solely to solicit membership in the health maintenance organization under a contract between the health maintenance organization and the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene;

(2) attorneys at law of the State who are qualified as title insurance [agents or brokers] PRODUCERS and who do not hold a [certificate of qualification] LICENSE in any other kind or subdivision of insurance; [and]