

**§ 58-47-165. Books and records.**

(a) Every TPA or service company shall maintain and make available to the self-insurer complete books and records of all transactions performed on behalf of the self-insurer. The books and records shall be maintained by the self-insurer, TPA, or service company in accordance with G.S. 58-47-180.

(b) The Commissioner shall have access to books and records maintained by a TPA or service company for the purposes of examination, audit, or inspection. The Commissioner shall keep confidential any trade secrets contained in those books and records, including the identity and addresses of the covered members of a self-insurer, except that the Commissioner may use the information in any judicial or administrative proceeding instituted against the TPA or service company.

(c) The Commissioner may use the TPA or service company as an intermediary in the Commissioner's dealings with the self-insurer if the Commissioner determines that this will result in a more rapid and accurate flow of information from the self-insurer and will aid in the self-insurer's compliance with this Article and the Workers' Compensation Act.

(d) The self-insurer shall own the books and records generated by the TPA or service company pertaining to the self-insurer's business.

(e) The self-insurer shall have access to and rights to duplicate all books and records related to its business.

(f) If the self-insurer and the TPA or service company cancel their agreement, notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a) of this section, the TPA or service company, shall transfer all books and records to the new TPA, service company, or the self-insurer in a form acceptable to the Commissioner. The new TPA or service company shall acknowledge, in writing, that it is responsible for retaining the books and records of the previous TPA, service company, or the self-insurer as required in subsection (a) of this section. (1997-362, s. 3.)