

INSURER ASKS RISE IN FAST-CAR RATES

Insurance will cost more starting next month for many owners of new "high performance" or "muscle" cars, so designated because of extra power for fast starts.

State Farm Mutual of Bloomington, Ill., which claims to be the largest auto insurer in the country, has announced a 25 per cent surcharge starting March 1, subject to approval by state insurance departments. It will apply to premiums for bodily injury, property damage liability, medical payments, and comprehensive and collision coverage for the 1970 models of these cars.

The company said other insurers had already begun similar surcharges. Its decision was based on three years of actuarial studies in 20 states, it said, showing 56 per cent higher insurance losses than with standard-powered cars. Collision claims were 50 per cent higher, and comprehensive claims 117 per cent higher, according to State Farm Mutual.

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