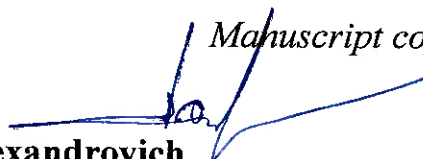


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**METHODOLOGY FOR INVESTIGATION OF INTERNAL CORPORATE
EMBEZZLEMENT IN THE INSURANCE INDUSTRY**

Speciality 5.1.4 – Criminal Law Sciences

DISSERTATION
for the degree of
Candidate of Juridical Sciences

Scientific Supervisor:
Doctor of Law, Associate Professor
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Relevance of the research topic. As of 1 January 2023, in Russia, there were 140 insurance organizations operating, 57 insurance brokers, and 18 mutual insurance societies. These subjects of the insurance business provided over 100 types of insurance, primarily Compulsory Insurance of Motor Third-Party Liability (CIMTPL), accident insurance, and property insurance for individuals. The aggregate volume of the insurance market, as of the date of the survey, exceeded 1.8 trillion Roubles (insurance premiums at the end of 2022) and 241.3 million insurance contracts were concluded in 2022, of which 83.9% were contracts with individuals. The above data objectively prove the dynamic development of national insurance as a branch of economic activity.

At the same time, various criminal acts committed in the field of insurance, including those perpetrated by its professional participants, pose a serious threat to the further development of the insurance industry.

As per official statistics of the 2020-2021 period, 2,365 and 1,938 offences were registered under Art. 159.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation ("Insurance fraud"), and 1,224 and 1,280 perpetrators were established. By the end of 2022, the numbers in question were 2,169 offences and 928 perpetrators. According to the Judicial Department of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, during 2020-2022, there were sentenced under Article 159.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation, and, specifically, under Part 1 – 63 people, under Part 2 – 666 people, under Part 3 – 123 people, and under Part 4 – 351 persons. It's worth noting that even without regard to the latency of crimes in the field of insurance, these figures are consistently high. Let us also point out that the statistical picture shows information on fraud committed in the insurance sector, while data on other embezzlement and crimes remain outside the scope of official statistical measurements. Experts estimate the level of latency of theft in the insurance sector at 90-95%, and the amount of damage caused to the industry by such crimes at over 10 billion Roubles per year.

The results of our interview survey (see empirical data) indicate that detection, investigation, and prevention of embezzlement committed in the insurance industry

by employees of insurance organizations and other professional insurance agents is no less of a problem for law enforcement than insurance fraud itself. This problem is expressed particularly in the lack of scientifically-based and practice-tested applicable recommendations for the investigation of the above-mentioned offences, which creates objective prerequisites for the development of an appropriate private forensic methodology.

The previously mentioned, in our opinion, convincingly attests to the relevance of the chosen topic of the thesis research.

The degree of scientific development of the topic. There are important monographic works dedicated to the aspects of development of scientific provisions and practical recommendations on investigation of insurance fraud and other crimes in the sphere of insurance, by a number of specialists: A. I. Algazin, R. N. Borovskikh, E. V. Bulgakova, N. V. Bykova, R. K. Gitinov, S. A. Lubin, V. A. Maslov, N. N. Potapova, O. V. Trubkina, M. M. Urazbakhtin, S. I. Usachev, and other authors. In general, the arsenal of forensic works on the topic looks very impressive. However, the studies available in this arsenal focus mainly on detection, discovery, investigation, and prevention of insurance fraud, while far less attention is paid to the investigation of theft, corporate fraud, embezzlement, and misappropriation perpetrated in the insurance industry. Presently, in the domestic criminalistic literature, there is no established criminalistic methodology for investigating of embezzlement committed by employees in insurance organizations, as well as other professional participants of insurance (insurance agents, brokers, managers in the field of insurance services, etc.) against insurance companies. This study suggests that such offences should be referred to as Internal Corporate Embezzlement in Insurance (*hereinafter also referred to as ICEI*). The proposed dissertation research will focus on the development of forensic means of their detection, investigation, and prevention.

The object of dissertation research can be defined as the criminal activity involving internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance, as well as the activity aimed at investigating and preventing these crimes.

The subject of the study is the general regularities of criminal activity, expressed in the commission of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance, and the associated regularities of investigation and prevention of these crimes.

The purpose of the study is to develop theoretical provisions and applied recommendations that constitute the content of a private forensic methodology for investigating internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance.

To achieve the established goal, the following tasks were defined:

- 1) To determine the subject of forensic methodology of ICEI investigation;
- 2) To perform the typology of ICEI;
- 3) To form and characterize typical models of ICEI mechanisms;
- 4) Within the framework of criminalistic characteristics, to consider the content of typical techniques, the circumstances of committing ICEI, as well as the features of the personality of a typical offender and trace patterns of ICEI;
- 5) To disclose the content of the principle of discretionary initiative and its enforcement in the detection of ICEI and at the initial stage of investigation of ICEI;
- 6) To identify and analyse typical investigative situations and versions at the initial stage of investigation of ICEI;
- 7) Analyse the tactical peculiarities of the production of certain investigative actions and the use of special knowledge in the investigation of ICEI;
- 8) To characterise the main forensic means of prevention of ICEI.

The methodological basis of the research consisted of the dialectical method of cognition of social relations. When writing the dissertation, general scientific methods of research (methods of analysis, synthesis, induction, deduction, comparison, generalization, etc.), as well as a number of special methods (system-legal, formal-legal, etc.) have been widely used.

The theoretical basis of the dissertation research comprised scientific works on theoretical and practical issues of insurance, criminal law, criminalistics, and the theory of operational and investigative activity. Special attention has been placed on the works of major Russian criminalists: I. V. Aleksandrov, R. S. Belkin,

L. V. Bertovsky, A. I. Vinberg, I. A. Vozgrin, T. S. Volchetskaya, V. K. Gavlo, Y. P. Garmaev, A. Y. Golovin, O. P. Gribunov, V. D. Zelensky, V. N. Karagodin, D. V. Kim, V. Y. Koldin, A. M. Kustov, E. P. Ischenko, V. P. Lavrov, A. F. Lubin, V. A. Obraztsov, E. R. Rossinskaya, M. V. Subbotina, V. G. Tanasevich, A. N. Khalikov, A. V. Shmonin, N. P. Yablokov, and others.

The normative and theoretical basis of the study consisted of provisions of the Constitution of the Russian Federation, criminal and criminal-procedural legislation of the Russian Federation, the Federal Law of the Russian Federation “On compulsory insurance of civil liability of vehicle owners”, the Law of the Russian Federation “On organization of insurance business in the Russian Federation” and other normative legal acts.

The empirical basis of the research is represented by the results of generalisation and analysis of 200 criminal sentences on crimes in the sphere of insurance, 50 indictments on investigated criminal cases on embezzlement and other thefts committed by employees of insurance organisations, insurance agents, managers in the insurance business and other professional insurance participants. The research involved interviewing a pool of experts on the topic of the thesis, which included 35 investigators with experience in pursuing crimes in insurance sphere; 25 operative officers with experience in detecting insurance-related offences; 10 prosecutors with experience in supporting public prosecution in this category of cases; 30 specialists in the area of insurance activities, including security officers of insurance organisations.

The scientific novelty of the research is defined by the fact that it is for the first time at the monographic level that the scientifically substantiated theoretical provisions and practical recommendations are presented, constituting the content of the private criminalistic methodology of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance.

Provisions to be defended:

1. Internal corporate embezzlement in the insurance industry, as a criminalistic category, represents the type of criminal activity, the criminal and legal

manifestations of which are embezzlement in form of theft (Art. 158 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation), fraud (Art. 159, 159.5 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation), misappropriation and embezzlement (Art. 160 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation), as well as the associated offences under Art. 172, 172.1, 201, 272, 327 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation.

The category of “embezzlement” in its criminalistic meaning, formulated in such a manner, is obviously going beyond the limits of the criminal-legal concept of “embezzlement”. This is caused by the methodological approach of this study stipulating the importance of a complex criminalistic study of criminal activity in the insurance industry to cover not only theft as the main crime but also other organically related offences.

2.Characteristics of typical models of internal corporate theft in the insurance sector are presented in the form of 4 integral elements: subject, situation, method, and trace. This information has been entered into a correlation matrix of structural elements of a typical model of the mechanism of ICEI (Annex No. 2)

Based on the correlations presented, the following types are identified:

- (a) Internal corporate embezzlement of professional participants of insurance activity by imitating insurance (typical mechanism No. 1);
- (b) Internal corporate embezzlement of lower-level insurance agents and other intermediaries through non-receipt of incoming insurance premiums (Model Mechanism No. 2);
- (c) Internal corporate embezzlement by senior management of insurance agents and other intermediaries (Model Mechanism No. 3);
- (d) Internal corporate embezzlement by financially liable employees of insurance organisations while performing labour duties not directly related to insurance (Model Mechanism No. 4);
- (e) Internal corporate embezzlement by high-ranking employees of insurance organisations in the course of their insurance business (Model Mechanism No. 5).

3.Taking into consideration the established and described type models of mechanisms of internal corporate thefts in insurance, the structure of criminalistic

characteristics of these crimes has been determined, the elements of which are typical ways and circumstances of committing internal corporate thefts in the field of insurance, as well as the personal features of a typical criminal and trace patterns of such thefts.

The structural elements of the criminalistic characteristic of internal corporate thefts have been determined and substantiated using the method of correlation analysis of structural elements of the typical model of the mechanism of ICEI (Appendix No. 2).

4. The effectiveness of detection and the initial stage of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance is determined by the principle of discretionary initiative, which belongs to the category of special principles of the application of private forensic methodology.

The discretionary initiative implies the autonomy of volitional discretion by a law enforcement officer, in which offensiveness in adoption, implementation (within the framework of his legal powers) of forensic decisions is a way to achieve the objectives of detection, suppression, investigation of the facts of criminal activity of specific persons (in relation to our study – the facts of ICEI) with the corresponding personal responsibility for the content and results of legal activities.

5. The thesis identifies and characterises the main tactical peculiarities of performing specific operative actions in the process of investigating internal corporate thefts in the insurance sphere, which are based on the type models of the mechanism of the crimes in question (type 1-5, see Provision No. 2). In particular, it is vividly demonstrated how the forensic complexity of investigating specific types of ICEI is growing depending on the increasing complexity of the mechanism model types of these offences (from type 1 to type 5).

6. When investigating internal corporate embezzlement in insurance, the maximum value lies in forensic economic, forensic accounting, document and handwriting expertise, as well as the possibilities of using other forms of special knowledge. In particular, depending on the complexity of investigation into each of the 5 types of ICEI models, the dissertation demonstrates the peculiarities of

appointing the above-mentioned expert evaluations, the specifics of typical questions to be addressed to the expert, etc.

7. The main directions of criminalistic prevention of internal corporate embezzlement in insurance are:

- (a) Information monitoring and information exchange within the framework of state regulation of insurance activity and insurance supervision;
- (b) Enhancement of the efficiency of corporate management systems and the corporate security of insurance organisations.

Theoretical significance of the research. The provisions formulated in the dissertation can be used to improve existing and create new scientific developments in the field of embezzlement investigations and other crimes committed in insurance.

Practical significance of the results of dissertation research. The conclusions and recommendations presented in the dissertation are suitable for optimising the activities related to the investigation and prevention of crimes in the insurance sector as well as in teaching of educational disciplines in the criminal-law section.

Approbation and implementation of the research results. The most pressing and controversial issues outlined in the thesis have been considered and discussed at the meetings of the Department of Criminal Law and Procedure of the Siberian Institute of Management (branch) of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation.

The results of the research are incorporated into the teaching process, scientific activities, and educational-methodological activities of the Department of Criminal Law and Procedure of the Siberian Institute of Management (branch) of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation.

The ideas, theoretical provisions, proposals and practical recommendations formulated in the thesis were reported at international and all-Russian conferences (“Problems of formation of a legal social state in modern Russia” (Novosibirsk, 2015), “Criminal Procedural and Criminalistic Readings in Altai” (Barnaul, 2016),

“International Summer Baikal Law School” (Ulan-Ude, 2018), “Comparative Jurisprudence in the countries of the Asian-Pacific region” (Ulan-Ude, 2018), “Actual Problems of Domestic Criminalistics: Modern Trends” (Moscow, 2022), “Criminalistics in the Modern World: Problems of Theory and Practice” (Moscow, 2022), “Legal Problems of Strengthening Russian Statehood” (Tomsk, 2023), etc.).

Theoretical provisions and applied methodological recommendations of the researcher were reflected in 11 scientific articles published in peer-reviewed scientific journals and editions recommended by the Supreme Attestation Commission of Russia, as well as publications in other scientific journals, conference proceedings, etc.

Materials of the dissertation published by the author include:

Articles in leading peer-reviewed scientific journals identified by the Supreme Attestation Commission (SAC):

1. Borovskikh R. N., Serdyuk A. A. Digital training forensic polygons // Juridical World. – 2024. – # 4. – PP. 42-44.
2. Borovskikh, R. N., Serdyuk, A. A. Subject (basis) of the criminalistic methodology of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance / R. N. Borovskikh, A. A. Serdyuk // Juridical Science and Practice. – 2022. – v. 18, # 4. – PP. 25-41.
3. Serdyuk, A.A. Typology of the personality of the subject of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance and trace patterns of these crimes (Part 1) // Humanities, socio-economic and social sciences. – 2023. – # 9. – PP. 185-190.
4. Serdyuk A. A. Criminalistic methodology of crime investigation as a scientific qualification work // Legal Education and Science. – 2019. – # 1. - PP. 26-30.
5. Serdyuk, A.A. Discretionary initiative as a criminalistic principle of detection and investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance // Agrarian and land law. – 2024. – #7 (235). – PP. 245-248.
6. Serdyuk, A. A. Issues of formation of the paradigm of initiative-offensive criminalistic thinking in search and cognitive activity aimed at detection and

investigation of bribery / A. A. Serdyuk // Verb of Justice. – 2018. – # 3 (17). – PP. 80-83.

7. Serdyuk A.A. Criminalistic principle of assertiveness in the detection of bribery: issues of practical implementation // Izvestiya Tula State University Economic and Legal Sciences. – 2016. – # 3-2. – PP. 419-423.
8. Serdyuk A. A. Initiative and its misuse during an operative experiment to detect bribery // Bulletin of the Vladimir Law Institute. – 2017. – # 1(42). – PP. 139-141.
9. Serdyuk, A. A. Assertiveness in the detection of bribery / A. A. Serdyuk // Bulletin of the Academy of the General Prosecutor's Office of the Russian Federation. – 2017. – # 3 (59). – PP. 121-126.
10. Serdyuk, A. A. Discretionary initiative of investigator and its criminalistic significance at the stage of verification of a report on the detected fact of bribery / A. A. Serdyuk // Russian investigator. – 2018. – # 1. – PP. 67-70.
11. Serdyuk, A. A. Assertiveness as a factor of implementation of the discretionary initiative of prosecution in overcoming obstruction in the investigation of criminal cases of bribery / A. A. Serdyuk // Development of territories. – 2019. – # 2(16). – PP. 50-52

Other works by the author:

1. Serdyuk, A. A. Operative experiment: issues of terminological definition and assessment by the court of the legitimate grounds for its conduct / A. A. Serdyuk // Problems of the formation of the legal social state in modern Russia: Materials of the XI All-Russian scientific-practical conference, Novosibirsk, 28 October, 2015/ Novosibirsk State Agrarian University, Law Faculty. - Novosibirsk: Novosibirsk State Agrarian University, 2015. - PP. 153-155. (RSCI).
2. Serdyuk, A. A. The initiative of law enforcement agencies in detection of bribery: problems of practical implementation / A. A. Serdyuk // Criminal Procedural and Criminalistic Readings in Altai, Barnaul, 17-18 November 2016. - Barnaul: Federal State Educational Institution of Higher Professional

Education “Barnaul Law Institute of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of the Russian Federation”, 2016. - PP. 105-108. (RSCI).

3. Serdyuk A. A. Assertiveness as a mental component of investigator's activity to overcome resistance at initial stage of bribery investigation / A. A. Serdyuk // Problems of the formation of the legal social state in modern Russia: Proceedings of the XIII All-Russian national scientific-practical conference, Novosibirsk, 13 December 2017 / Novosibirsk State Agrarian University. - Novosibirsk: The publishing house of Novosibirsk State Agrarian University “Golden Spike”, 2017. - PP. 187-189. (RSCI) and others.

In scientific publications, the author examines problems related to practical implementation of investigative methodologies for the crimes in question. The conclusions drawn here correlate with the provisions of the presented thesis and have scientific value and significance for legal science and practice.

The main provisions and conclusions of the dissertation research were reported at the meeting of the Department of Criminal Law and Procedure of the Siberian Institute of Management (branch) of the Russian Academy of National Economy and Public Administration under the President of the Russian Federation, and received positive evaluations from all the speakers during the discussion at the department

Structure of the thesis is determined by its object, subject, goal, and objectives, and consists of introduction, main part comprising three chapters with nine paragraphs, conclusion, a bibliography and two appendices.

Content of work

In the introduction, the author indicates the relevance of the chosen topic, the extent of development of the problem under study, defines the object and subject of the study, its goals and objectives, the normative, theoretical and empirical basis of the study, the methodology used, revealing its novelty and its supporting provisions put forward for defence, making it possible to state the theoretical and practical significance of the results obtained.

The first chapter, “Theoretical bases of investigative methodology of internal corporate embezzlement in insurance”, includes three paragraphs and is devoted to the subject of criminalistic methodology for investigating internal corporate embezzlement in insurance (ICEI), theoretical aspects of classification of ICEI, and model building for mechanisms of ICEI.

In the first paragraph *“Subject of criminalistic methods of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the sphere of insurance”*, the analysis of positions of the most prominent criminalists is provided regarding the studied problematics, the stance is substantiated that the methodology of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the sphere of insurance is a private criminalistic methodology, the content of which is the methodology of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in insurance of a certain type of offences.

The second paragraph, *“Theoretical aspects of typologisation of internal corporate embezzlement in the insurance sector”*, provides for the creation of specific classification criteria for dividing these crimes into certain types and formulating typological groups.

The third paragraph, *“Type models of mechanisms of internal corporate theft in the insurance”*, discusses the main characteristics of type models of intra-corporate theft in insurance, which are presented (based on the analysis of law enforcement practice), in the form of 4 integrative elements: subject, situation, method, and traces. The obtained analytical information is stored in the correlation matrix of structural elements of the type model of the mechanism of internal corporate embezzlement in insurance, within which it became possible to establish and match the correlation indicators between individual attributes of each of the 4 integrative elements of the type model of these crimes, as well as to rank these indicators by the “strength” of correlation. The degree of correlation itself was defined by the frequency of occurrence of a particular feature in a particular offence, and is indicated by the ratio of each of these features to one another.

The second chapter, “Criminalistic characteristics of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance”, is a study of the typical ways and

conditions for committing internal corporate embezzlement in insurance and drawing conclusions about the peculiarities of the personality of a common perpetrator and trace patterns of internal corporate embezzlement in the sphere of insurance.

The first paragraph, *“Typical ways of committing internal corporate theft in the insurance industry”*, examines the ways of committing these offences, the content of which is defined both by the aspects of the crimes committed in the process of insurance activity, or by imitating it, as well as by the aspects of committing them by an actor performing certain labour duties in this area, or who holds a certain official position and has certain official powers. In this regard, there are several consolidated groups of typical methods of these offences and the environment in which they are committed:

The second paragraph of the chapter *“Characteristics of personality of a typical offender and trace patterns of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance”* presents a description of typical personal features of persons committing internal corporate embezzlement, as well as the typical trace patterns of these offences. The description is provided through the prism of the structural elements’ correlation matrix of a typical model of the mechanism of the examined crimes (Appendix 1 to the thesis) with the formulation of clear and forensically relevant characteristics of the offenders.

The third chapter “Peculiarities of detection, investigation and prevention of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance” considers the principle of discretionary initiative and its use both during detection and at the initial stage of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement, typical investigative situations and versions at the initial stage of investigation of the circumstances of committing these crimes, as well as tactical features of conducting certain investigative actions and the use of special knowledge in investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance.

The first paragraph *“The principle of discretionary initiative and its use during detection and at the initial stage of investigation of internal corporate*

embezzlement in the field of insurance” focuses on the principle of “priority of the assertive nature of detection” (including the means of operational and search activities) and investigation, in other words, on the principle of “discretionary initiative” in the issues of detection and investigation (mainly at the initial stage) of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance. The concept of this special criminalistic principle, its attributes, and its applied significance in the issues of the investigation methodology of the investigated crimes is provided. The substantial component of this special criminalistic principle has been determined, namely, that “discretionary initiative” represents the autonomy of volitional discretion of a law enforcement officer, meaning the assertiveness in the adoption, implementation (within its legal powers) of criminalistic decisions is a way to achieve the goals of detection, suppression, investigation of the facts of criminal activity of specific persons committing internal corporate embezzlement in insurance with the corresponding personal liability for the content and results of such a legal activity.

In the second paragraph, *“Typical investigative situations and versions at the initial stage of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance”*, the author, based on an analysis of court practice, provides classification of typical investigative situations and forensic versions at the initial stage of pre-trial proceedings.

In the third paragraph *“Tactical peculiarities of the production of specific investigative actions and the use of special knowledge in investigating internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance”*, considering typical investigative situations previously classified and analysed, examines the tactical peculiarities of the production of specific investigative actions and the use of special knowledge in investigation of internal corporate embezzlement of several types.

In the fourth paragraph, *“Criminalistic means of prevention of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance”*, the issues of criminalistic prevention of crimes in the structure of private criminalistic methodology of investigation of corresponding crimes are considered, and the directions of prevention of offences by criminalistic measures are analysed.

The conclusion of the dissertation contains the main conclusions on the research topic, as well as suggestions and recommendations. It should be noted that the generalisation and analysis of law enforcement practice in criminal cases of embezzlement in the field of insurance, the study of other empirical data predetermined the conclusion that the main characteristics of type models of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance can be presented in form of four integrative elements: subject, situation, method, and traces. At the same time, the content of these integrative elements is based on the thorough study of law enforcement practice.

Based on the correlations presented, the following have been singled out:

- 1) Internal corporate embezzlement by professional participants of insurance activity through imitation of insurance (typical mechanism #1);
- 2) Internal corporate embezzlement by lower-level insurance agents and other intermediaries through non-receipt of incoming insurance premiums (typical mechanism No. 2);
- 3) Internal corporate embezzlement by senior management of insurance agents and other intermediaries (Model Mechanism No. 3);
- 4) Internal corporate embezzlement by the employees of insurance organisations bearing financial responsibility while fulfilling their labour duties that are not immediately connected with insurance (Model Mechanism No. 4);
- 5) Internal corporate embezzlement by high-ranking employees of insurance organisations in the course of insurance activities (Model Mechanism No. 5).

With reference to the formed type models of internal corporate theft in the insurance sector, the paper provides for a criminalistic characterisation of these crimes. It is noted that the typical ways of committing the analysed crimes are quite diverse, and their content is determined by, at the very least, the following circumstances:

- (a) The offence is committed in the context of the insurance business or by imitating it;

(b) The embezzlement is perpetrated either by a participant of insurance business performing certain labour duties or by a holder of a certain official position and exercising certain official powers.

In the light of what was said above and depending on the increase in the level of complexity of the committed ICEI, it is possible to single out several enlarged groups of typical methods of these offences:

1) Theft of insurance premiums through the sale of stolen, manufactured or otherwise illegally acquired counterfeit insurance policies, including their sale through online services;

2) Misappropriation of premiums received from policyholders or agents, through the fabrication of reasons for bonuses and other remunerations (e.g., using fictitious agency contracts);

3) Internal embezzlement of insurance premiums committed by managers of insurance organisations under the cover of false insurance operations and other seemingly legitimate activities.

The resulting correlation matrix of structural elements of the typical model of the mechanism of ICEI (Annex 1) allows us to speak about the following forensically relevant characteristics of the offenders:

- Knowledge of economics and entrepreneurship, law and insurance business;
- Competence in the field of insurance, work experience in the insurance industry;
- Skills in managing medium and large teams, extended networks of commercial organisations;
- Access to strictly accountable documents;
- Legal access to the funds paid by policyholders in the form of insurance premiums, becoming the subject of embezzlement;
- Holding a certain official capacity and possibility to use official and functional powers for criminal purposes;
- Availability of subordinate employees, possibility to manipulate their actions at work;

– Possession of business connections with the management of insurance organisations and other professional communications, resulting in the appearance of a certain “credit of trust” on the part of superior management allowing them to conceal traces of committed crimes for a certain period.

On this basis, it is possible to identify four personality types of offenders committing internal corporate theft in the insurance industry and trace patterns relating to these types of individuals.

The consideration of specific features of detection, investigation, and prevention of internal corporate theft in the field of insurance has been carried out in the study, above all, in terms of principled approaches. The principle of “discretionary initiative” has been highlighted and given consideration. It has been determined that the considered principle in its contextual expression implies a proactive paradigm of the functioning of law enforcement agencies, assuming the implementation of their duties within the framework of an active, assertive search for criminal deeds of officials (a kind of regular “scanning of the criminogenic field” in all spheres of social activities). Such a scanning search is based on information collected from various sources, the suppression of offences, and their further investigation (that is similar to the “fanned vector”, i.e., from one detected episode to the whole array of criminal offences of a specific person or a group of persons).

The applied value of the principle of discretionary initiative is such that the active use of the full resourcing potential of law enforcement authorities within its framework would facilitate systematic eradication of the existing paradigm of expectant behaviour of law enforcement bodies at the stage of the offences' detection, and during investigation – to gradual elimination of the passive system of work of investigative bodies, when they often work only on detected offences.

Based on the above-mentioned results of the analysis of available scientific and applied research, as well as examination of our own empirical material, the dissertation summarises conclusions about typical investigative situations of detection and initial stage of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the

field of insurance in connection with type models of these crimes, in conjunction with typical versions.

The generalizations, conclusions, proposals, and recommendations set out in the study develop a systematic view on the contents of the private forensic methodology of investigation of internal corporate embezzlement in the field of insurance.

The appendices contain a library of private forensic methods to investigate fraud in the sphere of credit financing by classification criterion (Appendix 1) and also, the correlation matrix of structural elements of the type model of the mechanism of internal corporate thefts in the sphere of insurance (Appendix 2).