

Risk Insights

Advice for you and your business

Working with Subcontractors



Is your subcontractor insured? If not, then you may be at risk. Help protect your business by asking for a Certificate of Insurance.

A Certificate of Insurance proves that your subcontractor is insured and should contain all of the necessary insurance details of the policyholder. When working with any subcontractor, we recommend always requesting a Certificate of Insurance that details their liability insurance coverage prior to starting a project. If you regularly work with the same subcontractor, reviewing their liability coverage annually or on a project-by-project basis is always a good idea.

Avoid subcontractors costing you your business and your reputation.

Why is it necessary?

• If the subcontractor has no insurance or insufficient insurance, you may be liable.

• How will your insurance be impacted?

If your client suffers a loss and your subcontractor is not insured:

- Your loss history is impacted
- Your premiums may increase
- Your deductibles may increase
- Your ability to get insurance may be affected
- You may have to pay a deductible

Federated Insurance

We believe that knowing your business matters. With industry-specific expertise and decades of experience, we can provide valuable insights, consulting and training to help keep your business safe.

- We specialize in your market and work with you directly
- 100% Canadian-owned
- Insuring companies for almost a century
- Member of the Fairfax family
- Endorsed by more than 50 trade associations

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Subcontractor Checklist

Here's our Subcontractor Checklist which may help you identify some of the key issues to consider when working with a subcontractor to help keep you and your business protected:

Job Details

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DATE		
Coverage		
Have you received a Certificate of Insurance from the Subcontractor?	Yes	No
Work History		
Have you identified at least three similar jobs this subcontractor has recently completed?	Yes	No
Have you verified the quality and timeliness of this subcontractor's work with owners and general contractors?	Yes	No
Do you feel that the subcontractor's employees can adequately perform the work?	Yes	No
Have you received documentation?	Yes	No
Claims History – Insurance & Protection		
Does the subcontractor carry adequate liability insurance coverage?	Yes	No
Have you reviewed the subcontractor's claims history for the past three years as an indicator of workmanship?	Yes	No
Financial Stability		
Have you verified the subcontractor's bonding line of credit (if applicable)?	Yes	No
Have you requested a Dun & Bradstreet, Equifax or other independent financial report on the subcontractor?	Yes	No
Notes		