

Our Terms of Business Agreement for COMMERCIAL Customers

This document details our services and our arrangements for dealing with Your insurance. Please read it carefully and retain a copy for Your records.

The English language will be used for all communications, the contractual terms and conditions, and any information we are required to supply to You, before and during the duration of the contract and this agreement shall be subject to English Law.

Issue of this Terms of Business Agreement indicates that we have designated you as a Commercial Customer ie. that your insurance requirements are in relation to a business enterprise.

The Financial Conduct Authority is the independent watchdog that regulates financial services. A Class Insurance Solutions Ltd is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority for insurance distribution activities and as a Credit Broker. Our Financial Services Register number is 582612. Check our status at <https://register.fca.org.uk> or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768.

We are an independent insurance intermediary, who acts on our customers' behalf in arranging insurance, including: assessing Your insurance needs and Personally Recommending policies suitable for You; arranging Your insurance cover with insurers to meet Your requirements; and helping You with any ongoing changes You have to make.

Our Data Protection and Privacy Statement (How we treat Information You give to Us)

We are a data controller and our data protection officer is Terry McDowell.

We act as Your agent and will collect data, including personal information and risk details, solely to enable us to obtain and provide insurance quotations, arrange and administer Your insurance. Data collected by us is contractual, and for Our legitimate business interests as an insurance broker and We will be unable to offer any quotation or insurance if You refuse to provide certain personal data, including health, financial and criminal records data which is collected under the lawful basis of public interest, where these would affect the provision of cover and/or performance of insurance contracts.

Your information will be held securely by us and shared with insurers, and anyone else involved in the normal course of arranging and administering Your insurance which could include reputable providers outside the EU, to enable them to provide accurate terms and we/they will also obtain data about You and Your insurance history from various insurance anti-fraud databases, such as the Claims and Underwriting Exchange (CUE) as well as publicly available websites and 'soft checks' with credit referencing agencies, which will not affect your credit rating.

We will not give anyone else any personal information except on Your instructions or authority, or where We are required to do so by law, or by virtue of Our regulatory requirements. Information about You and Your insurances will be held while You are a client and for a minimum of three years, and in certain circumstances up to six years, after expiry of Your policies. Under the Data Protection Act data subjects have the right to see, and correct, personal information about them that We hold. Please write to our data protection officer at our usual office address if You wish to exercise Your rights or have a complaint about our use of Your data.

We normally accept payment by cheque or the following credit/debit cards – Visa, Mastercard. Our preferred method is by bank transfer. You may be able to spread Your payments through insurers' instalment schemes or a credit scheme, which we have arranged with an established insurance premium finance provider. Rates and acceptance may be subject to a full credit check. We will give You full information about Your payment options and the appropriate finance agreement when we discuss Your insurance in detail.

Under the terms of our agreements with the Insurance companies with whom we place business, we receive premiums You pay to us as Agent of the Insurer. We do not pay any interest on premiums held by us in the course of arranging and administering Your insurance.

Insurance cover is not to be deemed in place, until either verbal or written confirmation has been received from ourselves. We cannot therefore issue cover via e-mail or text message request unless a previous agreement has been made in writing.

Payment Options and How We treat payments You make to Us

Our Fees and Charges for providing Our Services to You

We usually receive a commission from the insurer which is taken from the amount You pay us, Where you pay on credit we will also receive commission from the premium finance provider and, in addition, we also make the following charges to cover the administration of Your insurance:

Arranging new policies	£100.00
Mid term adjustments	£50.00
Renewals	£100.00
Policy Cancelled Prior to Inception	£50.00
Policy Voided after inception or renewal – each policy year	£100.00

Mid-term cancellations and other refunds are paid NET of commission and in addition we charge an administration fee of £50.00

If we arrange a policy on which we earn no commission, we will advise You of the arrangement fee before You take the policy out. **We may also make additional charges specific to the arrangement & servicing of certain policies, but these will always be advised to You in advance.** Prior to the conclusion of each insurance contract, or upon renewal, We will remind You of Your right to be advised of the level of commission which We receive from underwriters. You are entitled, at any time, to request information regarding any commission which We may have received as a result of placing Your insurance business. Where we may receive additional remuneration based on the volume or profitability of our account with an insurer we will advise You of this.

In the event that your policy is voided by the insurer for non – disclosure we will retain the commission and fees charged in arranging the insurance.

Minimum & Deposit Premiums (M&D)

Please note that some commercial insurance policies may be subject to minimum and deposit premium. Where this is the case there is no refund in the event of cancellation at anytime during the policy term even if you are paying by instalments. If your policy is subject to M&D terms you will be informed of this before you purchase it.

Refunds

Where a policy is cancelled before renewal, insurers charge to cover their costs, with the balance refunded to you, subject to no claim having been made. Full details will be available in your policy. In the event of an adjustment giving rise to a return of premium the amount may be refunded or held to credit. Insurers reclaim commission paid to us when you cancel a policy before renewal or where there is a mid-term alteration to your policy which results in a refund of premium. The amount reclaimed is based on the number of days until the planned renewal date. As a consequence, we will make a deduction to the value of the commission reclaimed, from any return premium owing to you. We will advise you if this affects you. In view of the cost involved in making changes to your policy, we will not issue refunds of less than £25.00.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

We are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). For commercial customers with less than £1m turnover, insurance advising and arranging is covered for 90% of the claim, without an upper limit. For compulsory insurances (eg., motor insurance and employers' liability insurance), insurance advising and arranging is covered for 100% of the claim, without an upper limit. Further information about compensation scheme arrangements is available from the FSCS.

Premium Finance Facilities and Service

We are a credit broker, not a lender. We may use insurance and finance providers who will conduct a **full** credit check and share Your payment record with other lenders, all of which will be recorded on Your credit record. **Please advise us if You do NOT consent to a full credit check being undertaken and you require premium finance**, however this may affect our ability to offer instalment facilities to You.

In relation to the provision of credit, we offer only the facilities provided by Insurers, or those of [Close Brothers Premium Finance](#), [Prem Fina](#) or [Investec](#) from whom we may receive a commission. Where a choice of providers is available, which could include instalment facilities provided by your insurer, we will explain the reason for our selection on any credit product offered.

Please Note: Your policy cover will cease if You fail to keep up payments on an instalment agreement or premium finance facility related to it and Your credit rating may be affected. In entering into a credit agreement to pay Your insurance premium, You give the finance provider the legal Right to cancel Your insurance policy on Your behalf in the event that You default on the loan, and offset any refunded premium against the outstanding amount owed to them. This means that if You default on Your payment terms and the finance provider requests that we cancel Your policy, we will do so as Your agent.

If any direct debit or other payment due, in respect of any credit agreement you enter into to pay insurance premiums is not met when presented for payment, or if you end the credit agreement, we will be informed by the credit provider and additional charges could be made. If you do not make other arrangements with us to pay the insurance premiums and any additional charges made you acknowledge and agree that we may, at any time after being so informed, instruct the relevant insurer to cancel the insurance and to collect any refund of premiums which may be due. If any money is owed to the Finance provider, we will pay it out of the return premium, or if we have already been debited with the amount outstanding, use it to offset our costs. You will be responsible for paying any time-on-risk charge and putting in place any alternative insurance and/or payment arrangements you need.

Sums Insured and Claims Notification

Sums Insured and Indemnity Limits

You will be responsible for ensuring that all sums insured and indemnity limits are adequate for the cover requested. We will advise You of the basis of calculation for sums insured and will, on request, give You details of external experts, such as surveyors and valuers, which You may wish to consult. The following information on calculating business interruption sums insured is given for guidance, but You should always seek specific advice from us if You are in any doubt as to what should be included.

Average

In the event of under-insurance, Insurers may reduce the amount of any claim settlement in the same proportion as the sum insured bears to the total value of the insured items.

Several types of cover exist for Business Interruption cover, which is sometimes referred to as Loss of Profits insurance; Gross Profit basis (usual for manufacturers, retailers etc); Gross Revenue basis (normally for consultants, professions); and Increased cost of working (ICW) basis, for businesses that believe there would be no loss of profit or revenue in the event of a claim, but would need to cover increased trading costs until the claim is settled.

NB 'Accounting Gross Profit' and 'Insurance Gross Profit' are not the same thing. Where Your policy includes this cover, the Sum Insured for 'Gross Profit' should normally be calculated using the following method:

Information on Business Interruption/ Loss of Profits Insurance

Annual turnover *plus* year-end stock and work in progress; *less* opening stock (and work in progress) and purchases, bad debts and uninsured variable expenses (such as the purchase of raw materials or shipping costs)

Gross Revenue insures the total turnover without deductions and Increased Cost of Working is based on projected additional costs of temporary relocation and other forecast additional costs.

Business interruption sums insured should then be adjusted to take into account the indemnity period (eg. doubled for 2 years indemnity period)

Our Service and Obligations to You

We will conduct a fact-find to evaluate Your insurance needs with the member of Your business that You choose to nominate as Your Insurance Contact, who will be responsible for ensuring that Your disclosure obligations to insurers are met.

We will act as Your agent in sourcing a policy to meet Your demands and needs and presenting the information provided by Your nominated Insurance Contact in a manner which is clear and accessible to insurers. Where We operate under delegated authority from insurers We will act as their agent in certain circumstances and We will always advise You where this is the case.

We will advise and make a personal recommendation for You after We have assessed Your demands and needs. Our advice will be confirmed in a demands & needs and suitability statement, giving the reasons for Our recommendation. We typically offer advice from a limited panel of selected insurers, or from a single insurer and we will advise You of the identity of the insurers considered, or if we have given advice based on a fair analysis of the market. We do not accept responsibility for the solvency of any insurer recommended.

We may use another, specialist, intermediary to access the insurance product that most suits Your needs and We will inform You where this is the case.

PLEASE REFER TO THE DUTY OF DISCLOSURE BELOW

Your Responsibility to Provide Information (Duty of Fair Presentation of Risk)

You have a duty under the Insurance Act 2015 to make a fair presentation of the risk to insurers. This duty applies when You take out Your insurance cover, throughout the life of Your policy, and when You renew Your insurance.

This duty includes a need for You to undertake a reasonable search for *material information* which is known, or ought reasonably to be known, by anyone playing a significant role in making business decisions in Your business (such as Your company's principals, directors, senior management or shareholders) and staff responsible for arranging or administering Your firm's insurance.

You should advise Us of any particular concerns which led You to seek insurance cover and any special or unusual facts relating to the risk.

You must ensure that all *material statements* of fact are substantially correct and not misleading, and any *material information* which is a matter of expectation or belief (eg. an estimate or forecast) is provided in good faith.

Failure to disclose any material information or change in circumstances to Your insurers which could influence the cost, or their decision to accept Your insurance, could mean that Your policy could be invalidated or cancelled without refund, or that part or all of a claim may not be paid. 'Material Information or changes in circumstances' could include Your inability to comply with any conditions or warranties applicable to Your policy, which should be notified to Us immediately.

'*Material statements*' and '*material information*' are information which could influence the judgement of a prudent insurer in determining whether to take on a risk and on what terms.

Our aim is to provide a first-class service, however, if You wish to register a complaint, please contact Us **by writing to**

Terry McDowell, A Class Insurance Solutions Ltd, 161 Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, Kent, CT6 5HE, or, **by phone** on 01227 366904, **by email** at sales@aclassinsurance.co.uk

If You cannot settle Your complaint with us, You may be entitled to refer it to the Financial Ombudsman Service, for an independent assessment. The FOS Consumer Helpline is on **0800 023 4567** and their address is: Financial Ombudsman Service, Exchange Tower, London E14 9SR Their website is at:

<http://www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk/>

How You can Complain to Us

**Cancellation
of this
agreement**

This agreement will remain in force unless cancelled by either party in accordance with the terms below or You have no insurance business placed through Us. You may cancel the agreement at any time, subject to notification in writing to our usual office address. In the event of cancellation, We shall be entitled to retain any commissions and fees earned prior to the date of cessation of the agreement in full. We have the right to cancel this agreement subject to one month notice in writing to Your last notified address.