

## **TOTAL SUPPORT SERVICE**

### **Insurance and Risk Management**

#### **What is Insurance and Risk Management?**

Insurance is the system and business of providing financial protection against specific risks, injuries or other contingencies. Risk Management is the means by which an organisation assesses the likelihood of something happening which may hinder or damage it and then puts measures in place to reduce the impact of that risk, should it ever happen.

#### **Why have insurance?**

There is a wide range of other insurances available to cover every conceivable risk. These include:

- Employer's liability insurance (cover against any claims arising from accidents or injury to employees during the course of their work)
- Public liability insurance (cover against any claims arising from accidents or injury to members of the public as a consequence of the business' work or operations)
- Property Insurance (risks to buildings and the businesses working in them from fire, weather damage, vandalism, subsidence etc)
- Directors and Officers Liability (covers errors made by directors of a company; this usually covers the individual's personal liabilities as well as those of the company)
- Asset Insurance (covers tools, machinery and equipment, vehicles, goods etc)
- Contract Insurance (covers the risk incurred in undertaking work before full payment)
- Professional Indemnity (covers advice, design and other professional activities)
- Legal costs insurance (covers the costs of fighting a legal claim against the company)
- Business Interruption (provides financial support to the business when it is not able to operate to ensure that it can meet its unavoidable outgoings)

#### **What are the requirements?**

All businesses operating in the UK are required by law to take out employer's liability and public liability insurance. Anyone owning or occupying a building will usually be required to take buildings insurance as part of an operating lease or condition of a mortgage.

Professionals such as architects, surveyors or lawyers are required to take out professional indemnity insurance by their accrediting professional body.

Most other forms of insurance are optional. The BWF considers that it is good practice for companies to take out directors' and officers' liability insurance, but in the end, it is for each business to decide what it needs and what it can afford.

Insurance is a competitive commercial market. Insurers are not under an obligation to provide insurance to anyone, and can be expected to increase the price (or premium) they ask according to their judgement of the risk of a claim being made under the policy.

## **How can the BWF help?**

Insurance is a complex subject, and few who have not worked in the insurance industry understand the full complexities of insuring commercial businesses. Without this expertise, it can be difficult to make detailed comparisons of the premiums and policies on offer, or to realise when many of the standard policies available do not cover some of the risks that are an inescapable part of a woodworking and joinery manufacturing business.

The BWF has entered into a partnership with Towergate Risk Solutions, part of the Towergate Partnership, the largest independent insurance intermediary in Europe. Towergate Risk Solutions has developed a package of cover which includes employers liability, public and product liability, professional indemnity, asset insurance and directors' and officers' liability insurance. This package is available at competitive premiums and can be tailored to the individual company's needs. Furthermore, there are a range of additional insurance options which can be added into the package.

Purchasing insurance through a collective affinity group as part of a trade association means that BWF member companies stand to get a better deal than they might if they approached an insurance broker on their own. The BWF group has a stronger collective buying power, and is represented by insurance specialists who understand the insurance market and have taken time to get to know the woodworking industry's insurance needs

## **For further information:**

Download the brochure

Contact: 0116 240 5300

Email: [BWF@towergate.co.uk](mailto:BWF@towergate.co.uk)

The British Woodworking Federation is an Introducer Appointed Representative of Towergate Risk Solutions. Towergate Risk Solutions is a trading name of Towergate Underwriting Group Limited. Towergate Underwriting Group Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority, firm reference number is 313250 this can be checked by visiting the FSA website [www.fsa.gov.uk/register](http://www.fsa.gov.uk/register)

|