

Professional Indemnity Insurance requirements

The Chartered Certified Accountants' Global Practising Regulations (GPRs) set out the eligibility criteria for obtaining ACCA certificates and licences. These detail the continuing obligations placed on certificate/licence holders of which professional indemnity insurance is one.

This factsheet has no regulatory status. It is issued for guidance purposes only, and in the event of any conflict between the content of this factsheet and the content of the *ACCA Rulebook*, the latter shall at all times take precedence. Therefore, this factsheet should not be regarded by a member as a substitute for familiarising himself or herself with the appropriate regulations or, where necessary, obtaining specific advice concerning a specific situation.

INTRODUCTION

Professional indemnity insurance (PII) policies provide cover for practitioners against claims for professional negligence. In order to ensure that practitioners have the means to meet any claims of this nature, ACCA requires all holders of practising certificates, insolvency licences, firms' auditing certificates and firms' investment business certificates (Ireland) to obtain a minimum level of insurance cover.

LEVELS OF COVER

The level of indemnity required by practitioners holding the above certificates/licences is calculated in relation to their annual fee income. Where a practitioner is in partnership, or has fellow directors in an incorporated firm, or employs full-time or part-time staff, cover must also include fidelity guarantee insurance (FGI).

PII should provide cover in respect of all civil liability incurred in connection with the conduct of a firm's business by the partners (or members and designated members of a limited liability partnership), directors or employees. FGI must include cover against any acts of fraud or dishonesty by any partner, director or employee in respect of money or goods held in trust by a firm. The detailed provisions for professional indemnity insurance are set out in the GPRs. The GPRs are published in the *ACCA Rulebook*.

The limit of indemnity required will be dependent upon the firm's 'total income' for the previous accounting year. The regulations define 'total income' as the aggregate of the firm's professional charges and all other income received by the firm in the course of the firm's business. Commissions that are retained by the business must be included in the income figure. The regulations require that the minimum limit of indemnity on PII in respect of each and every claim must be at least £50,000, and prescribe the following formulae for determining the required level of cover:

Total income of up to £200,000

The limit of indemnity on PII in respect of each and every claim must be the greatest of:

- 2.5 times the total income;
- 25 times the largest fee raised during the previous accounting year; and
- £50,000.

Total income of over £200,000 and up to £700,000

The limit of indemnity on PII in respect of each and every claim must be the greatest of:

- the aggregate of £300,000 and the total income of the firm; and
- 25 times the largest fee raised during the previous accounting year.

Total income of over £700,000

The limit of indemnity on PII in respect of each and every claim must be the greatest of:

- £1 million; and
- 25 times the largest fee raised during the previous accounting year.

The 'largest fee' in all cases does not relate to the largest single invoice but to the highest cumulative amount of fees raised to a particular client during the year.

The annual limit of indemnity to be provided by FGI cover must be at least £50,000 in respect of each and every claim. The maximum permitted uninsured excess for PII and FGI is the lower of £20,000 per principal and 2% of the level of indemnity for each and every claim.

Persons carrying on public practice in a country other than a designated territory (the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland, Jersey, Guernsey and Dependencies and the Isle of Man) may comply with the minimum requirements of a recognised national body or regulatory authority in that country in respect of the limit of indemnity on PII and FGI and in respect of uninsured excess.

The regulations set the minimum level of PII required to be held by a practitioner. Practitioners should consider the risk profile of their work and their clients and determine whether or not they should carry PII in excess of the minimum required under the regulations.

MODIFICATION

If a person is unable to obtain PII or FGI complying with the GPRs and relevant Annexes or can only obtain such cover at an expense which is unreasonable, the person should notify ACCA in writing providing full details as to why they are unable to comply. The matter will be considered by the Admissions and Licensing Committee in its absolute discretion.

DOCUMENTATION

Practitioners are required to provide details of their PII and FGI policies when applying for, or renewing, certificates/licences. Practitioners must keep records of insurance claims made under the policies, and these records, and the policy itself, may be inspected by ACCA.

CESSATION OF PRACTICE

Those ceasing to practise must make arrangements for the continued existence of adequate PII and FGI cover for a period of six years from the date of cessation. This is due to the fact that claims can be made at a later date for work undertaken whilst a member was in practice.

ACCEPTABLE INSURANCE COMPANIES

Responsibility for obtaining adequate cover lies with an individual practitioner and may be effected with any reputable insurance company or underwriter.

In the UK, a scheme for members has been negotiated by ACCA with Lockton, North Quay, Temple Back, Bristol BS1 6FL. Tel: +44 (0)117 906 5000. Further details can be found at www.lockton.com/professional-indemnity.

In the Republic of Ireland, Willis Risk Services (Ireland) Ltd runs a scheme for ACCA members. Those wishing to make use of this facility should contact the broker at Grand Mill Quay, Barrow Street, Dublin 4. Tel: +353 (0)1 799 6503.

The following brokers are known to offer professional indemnity insurance policies. However, please note that the list does not indicate any endorsement on the part of ACCA nor any guarantee that the policies offered will meet ACCA's regulatory requirements. The list does not purport to be exhaustive.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY INSURANCE BROKERS

UK

Lockton
North Quay, Temple Back, Bristol BS1 6FL
tel: +44 (0)117 906 5000
email: catherine.davis@uk.lockton.com
www.lockton.com/professional-indemnity

Republic of Ireland

Willis Risk Services (Ireland) Ltd
The Quartz Building, Elm Park,
Merrion Road, Dublin 4
tel: +353 (0)1 661 6211
email: michelle.bowland@willis.com
www.willis.com/ireland

Possible alternatives

AON Risk Services Ltd
Unit 2 Gibraltar House, Gibraltar Walk, 4 High Street, Wickford,
Essex, SS12 9AZ
tel: +44 (0)1245 706 679
email: emma.southwood@aon.co.uk
www.aon.com.uk/professionals

A H Bell & Co (Insurance Brokers) Ltd
Marlborough House, Charnwood Street, Derby DE1 2GT
tel: +44 (0)1332 372111
email: info@bellbrokers.co.uk
www.bellbrokers.co.uk

Bluefin
Professions Division
Castlemead, Lower Castle Street, Bristol, BS1 3AG
tel: +44 (0)117 929 3344
email: enquiry.professions@bluefingroup.co.uk
www.bluefingroup.co.uk/professions

Brunel Professional Risks Ltd
St Thomas Court
Thomas Lane
Bristol BS1 6JG
tel: +44 (0)117 325 2224
email: contactus@brunelpi.co.uk
www.brunelpi.co.uk

HLI (UK) Ltd
8th Floor Whitefriars, Lewins Mea, Bristol, BS1 2NT
tel: +44 (0)844 579 0064 or +44 (0)117 945 1707
email: info@hlib.co.uk
www.hlib.co.uk

Arthur J Gallagher
The Walbrook Building
25 Walbrook, London
EC4N 8AW
tel: +44 (0)20 7560 3000
email: ukenquires@ajg.com
www.heathlambert.com

Marsh Ltd
Orchard Brae House, 30 Queensferry Road, Edinburgh EH4 2HS
tel: +44 (0)131 311 4275
email: brian.gillies@marsh.com
www.marsh.co.uk

NTEGRITY Insurance Solutions Ltd
The Stone Barn
Hambrook Business Park
The Stream, Hambrook
Bristol, BS16 1RQ
tel: +44 (0)1454 800800
email: ian.richards@ntegrity.co.uk
www.ntegrity.co.uk

Arthur J Gallagher
5 Western Boulevard
Unit 5, Bede Island Business Park
Leicester, LE2 7EX
tel: +44 (0)116 204 3055
email: Stephen_Webb@ajg.com
www.ajginternational.com/

Miller Insurance Services LLP
70 Mark Lane, London, EC3R 7NQ
tel: +44 20 7488 2345
email: info@miller-insurance.com
<http://www.miller-insurance.com/>

Sennet Insurance Services Ltd
1 Oaten Hill Place, Canterbury, CT1 3HJ
tel: +44 (0)1227 781200
email: info@sennet-insurance.co.uk
www.sennet-insurance.co.uk

Windsor Partners Ltd
16 – 18 East Cheap, London, EC3M 1BD
tel: +44 (0)20 7133 1200
email: info@windsor.co.uk
www.windsor.co.uk

This list is intended purely for guidance purposes. ACCA cannot comment on the services of any broker or company.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Further information is available from the ACCA website at www.accaglobal.com, or by telephoning the advisory services helpline in your region.