

Terms of Business

Insurance-Suite.com

Who are we?

We are Insurance-Suite.com, a trading style of Teesvale Limited. Our office is located at Amity House, 5-7 Coniscliffe Road, Darlington, DL3 7EE, Telephone 01325 488899 Fax 01325 488928, e-mail info@insurance-suite.com website www.insurance-suite.com.

Accepting our Terms of Business

By asking us to quote for, arrange or handle your insurances, you are providing your informed agreement to these Terms of Business. We draw your particular attention to the section headed 'Use of personal data' (specifically the paragraph explaining how 'sensitive personal data' will be used) and the sub-section headed 'Credit checks'.

For your own benefit and protection, you should read these terms carefully. If you are unsure about any aspect of our Terms of Business or have any questions regarding our relationship with you, please contact us at the above address.

The Financial Conduct Authority

Teesvale Limited is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). Our Financial Services Register number is 302103. Our permitted business is introducing, advising on and arranging general insurance contracts, and credit broking in relation to insurance instalment arrangements.

You may check this on the Financial Services Register by visiting the FCA's website, register.fca.org.uk/ or by contacting the FCA on 0800 111 6768.

Our service

Helping you to decide

Typically, our role is to advise you and, after we have assessed your needs, to make a suitable recommendation.

We will not provide further advice or recommendations following the arrangement of insurance cover, unless you notify us of a material change of circumstances or formally request that we review your insurance arrangements. At renewal, unless we give you a quote for cover with an alternative insurer, we will not offer advice or make recommendations (unless you request this during the renewal process).

The capacity in which we act for you

In providing our service to commercial customers, we may sometimes act as an agent of the insurer. We will confirm the capacity in which we will act for you before undertaking any relevant transactions on your behalf.

Our product range and the range of insurers used

We select personal and commercial insurances from a range of insurers, but for certain products, we only select products from a limited number of insurers or only offer products from a single insurer. We will give you further information about this before we finalise your insurance arrangements; where we select products from a limited number of insurers you may ask us for a list of the insurers we deal with for these products.

If we propose using another intermediary to help place your business, we will confirm this to you in good time before any arrangements are finalised.

We will not in any circumstance guarantee the solvency of any insurer.

Complaints and compensation

We aim to provide you with a high level of customer service at all times but, if you are not satisfied, please contact us:

in writing...	Write to Compliance Director, Teesvale Limited, Office 1, Block B, Technology Court, Bradbury Road, Aycliffe Industrial Estate, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6DA
by phone...	Telephone 01325 324659
by email...	teesvale@gmail.com

When dealing with your complaint, we will follow our complaint handling procedures; a summary of these procedures is available on request. If you are still not satisfied after we have dealt with your complaint, you may be entitled to refer the matter to the Financial Ombudsman Service (except in the case of a business employing 10 persons or more and with a turnover or annual balance sheet total exceeding €2 million, a charity with an annual income of £1m or more or trustees of a trust with a net asset value of £1m or more). For further information, you can visit FOS website www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk.

We are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). You may be entitled to compensation from the scheme if we cannot meet our obligations. This depends on the type of business and the circumstances of the claim. If you are eligible to claim from the FSCS, compensation is available as follows:

- 90% of the claim, without any upper limit;
- 100% of the claim without any upper limit for
 - compulsory classes of insurance (such as Third Party Motor or Employers Liability); and
 - 'pure protection' contracts, professional indemnity insurance, and general insurance claims arising from the death or incapacity of the policyholder owing to injury, sickness or infirmity, all where the insurance intermediary has failed to pay money to an insurer, pay away money it has received from an insurer, or has failed to take steps to allow the insurer to effect the contract of insurance.

Further information about compensation scheme arrangements is available from the FSCS on 0800 678 1100 (freephone) or 020 7741 4100 or www.fscs.org.uk.

Payment for our services

Commercial customers

In good time before the conclusion of each insurance contract, or upon renewal, we will remind you of your right to be informed 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.

Consumer customers

On request, we will be pleased to provide information about any commission received by us in the handling of your insurances.

All customers

We normally receive commission from insurers or product providers and, where applicable, finance providers. We also charge you for handling your insurances as follows:

- New business & renewals – You will receive a quotation which will tell you the total price to be paid, and which identifies any fees, taxes and charges separately from the premium, before your insurance arrangements are concluded.
- Use of credit card (no charge for use of debit card) – 2% of transaction amount
- Mid-term amendments - £10 per policy
- Issuing duplicate documentation – £10 per policy
- Cancellation admin fee – In the event of policy cancellation or a mid-term adjustment we will charge a fee of £20. Where the cancellation or change results in a premium refund by the insurer, we will also charge 20% of the returned premium to replace commission reclaimed by the insurer. In those cases where we process a cancellation and no premium refund is processed through us (e.g., if you are paying the insurer directly by direct debit) we will invoice you separately for our fee and for any commission clawed-back from us by the insurer (20% of the unpaid premium).
(Note – this commission retention may be waived if you are replacing the cancelled policy with another policy arranged by us, and there will be no cancellation fees charged if the policy is cancelled within any cooling-off period.)
- Late payment fee (see below) - £25
- Copies of personal data - £10 per request

Full payment of premium and fees is due before cover commences, or as otherwise stated under terms of credit, or in the debit note, invoice or statement issued to you. A late payment fee of £25 will be payable if payment is not made within these timescales.

We also draw your attention to the sections headed 'Cancellation of insurances' and 'Ending your relationship with us'.

Handling money

We act as agents of the insurer in collecting premiums and handling refunds due to clients, as well as the transfer of claims monies. Such monies are deemed to be held by the insurer(s) with which your insurance is arranged. For the purpose of some transactions, premiums may pass through other authorised intermediaries before being paid to the insurer. Interest earned on monies held will be retained by us.

Cancellation of insurances

You should make any request for the cancellation of a policy in writing and any relevant certificate of insurance must be returned to us or to the insurer concerned.

The terms of your policy may allow insurers to retain the premium in full or to charge short-period premiums in the event of cancellation before the policy expires. See details of our Cancellation Admin Fee above.

Ending your relationship with us

Subject to your immediate settlement of any outstanding premiums and fees, you may instruct us to stop acting for you and we will not impose a penalty.

Your instructions must be given in writing and will take effect from the date of receipt.

In circumstances where we feel we cannot continue providing services to you, we will give you a minimum of 7 days' notice where there is a valid reason for doing so. We will advise you of the reason for cancellation. Valid reasons may include but are not limited to:

- Non-payment of premium or fees
- Commission clawback by insurers where instructions are given to another party to handle the customer's insurance(s)
- Failure to provide requested documentation or information
- Deliberate failure to comply with terms set out within the terms of business or insurer's documentation
- Deliberate misrepresentation or non-disclosure or attempted fraud;
- Use of threatening or abusive behaviour or language, or intimidation or bullying of our staff or suppliers.

Unless otherwise agreed in writing, if our relationship ends, any transactions previously initiated will be completed according to these Terms of Business. You will be liable to pay for any transactions concluded prior to the end of our relationship and we will be entitled to retain commission received for conducting these transactions, together with all fees charged by us for services provided.

Your responsibilities

Commercial customers

You have a duty to give a fair presentation of risk to the insurer. This means that you should disclose every material circumstance relevant to the risk being insured following a reasonable search within your business to identify and verify such information. This should include information which you and where applicable your senior management, persons responsible for arranging your insurance or other relevant third parties know or ought to know and should include all information that would influence the judgement of the insurer or that would put the insurer on notice that it needs to make further enquiries.

Examples of material circumstances are:

- Special or unusual circumstances relating to the risk;
- Any particular concerns which led you to seek insurance cover for the risk; and
- Anything which those concerned with the class of insurance and field of activity in question would generally understand as being something that would be dealt with in a fair presentation of risks for this type of insurance.

The information must be presented in a way which would be reasonably clear and accessible to a prudent insurer. If you are unsure whether to disclose any information you should speak to us. You need to take into account the size and complexity of your business, and allow yourself sufficient time before your renewal date to consider and / or assess your insurance requirements.

Failure to provide a 'fair representation' may result in a number of remedies by the insurer. If the breach was deliberate or reckless the insurer can void the contract and keep the premium. If the breach was not deliberate or reckless the insurer can void the contract, proportionately reduce a claim settlement or amend the insurance policy terms and conditions then review the merits of a claim on this basis.

You should therefore always provide complete and accurate information to us when we ask you about the insurance risks your business faces before taking out a policy, at renewal and throughout the life of the policy. This also applies to your responses in relation to any assumptions you may agree to in the process of applying for insurance cover.

Consumer customers

You are responsible for answering any questions in relation to any proposal for insurance cover honestly and to the best of your knowledge, providing complete and accurate information which insurers will require. This also applies to your responses in relation to any assumptions you may agree to in the process of applying for insurance cover. This is particularly important before taking out a policy but also at renewal or if you make a mid-term amendment to your policy.

If you fail to disclose information, or misrepresent any fact which may influence the insurer's decision to accept the risk or the terms offered, this could invalidate the policy and mean that claims may not be paid.

All customers

You must check all details on any proposal form or Statement of Facts and pay particular attention to any declaration you may be asked to sign. It is important that you read all insurance documents issued to you and ensure that you are aware of the cover, limits and other terms that apply. Particular attention must be paid to any warranties and conditions as failure to comply with them could invalidate your policy.

You must inform us immediately of any changes in circumstances which may affect the services provided by us or the cover provided by your policy.

If you are unsure about any matter, please contact us for guidance.

Use of personal data

We will process any personal information we obtain in the course of providing our services to you in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. In administering your insurances it will be necessary for us to pass such information to insurers and other product or service providers which may also provide us with business and compliance support.

We may also disclose details to relevant parties, as necessary, to comply with regulatory or legal requirements. We may contact you in order to promote products or services which may be of interest to you. We will not otherwise use or disclose the personal information we hold without your consent.

Some of the details you may be asked to give us, such as information about offences or medical conditions, are defined by the Act as sensitive personal data. By giving us such information, you signify your consent to it being processed by us in arranging and administering your insurances.

Subject to certain exceptions, you will be entitled to have access to your personal and sensitive personal data for which you will be charged a fee of £10. If at any time you wish us, or any company associated with us, to cease processing any of the personal data or sensitive personal data we hold, or to cease contacting you about products and services, please write to the Compliance Manager at Teesvale Limited, Office 1, Block B, Technology Court, Bradbury Road, Aycliffe Industrial Estate, Newton Aycliffe, DL5 6DA.

Credit checks

Other firms involved in arranging your insurance (insurers, other intermediaries or premium finance companies) may use public and personal data from a variety of sources including credit reference agencies and other organisations. The information is used to help tailor a price, to ascertain the most appropriate payment options for you and to help prevent fraud. Any credit reference search will appear on your credit report whether or not your application proceeds. If you have any questions about this or any other matter, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Conflict of interests

Occasions can arise where we, or one of our associated companies, clients or product providers, may have a potential conflict of interest with business being transacted for you. If this happens, and we become aware that a potential conflict exists, we will write to you and obtain your consent before we carry out your instructions and we will detail the steps we will take to ensure fair treatment.

Claims handling arrangements

You should take note of the required procedures in the event of a claim, which will be explained in the policy documentation. Generally, insurers require immediate notification of a claim or circumstances which might lead to a claim. We will employ due care and skill if we act on your behalf in respect of a claim.

Law and Jurisdiction

This Terms of Business agreement sets out the terms of our relationship with you and is governed by and construed in accordance with English Law and any dispute arising under it shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English Courts.