



Truthfully, it helps to have guidance on your annual audit. Turn to us.

Our Premium Audit Guide is here to help.



A MEMBER OF FRANKENMUTH INSURANCE

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A MEMBER OF FRANKENMUTH INSURANCE

Introduction

We make it our business to help protect your business, making the coverage you need affordable and accessible with minimal headaches. However, not all policies are created equal. Certain commercial insurance policies require an audit before appropriate premiums can be assigned, including workers compensation, general liability, and/or commercial auto policies. These annual audits involve the examination of the policyholder's records and may include payroll, sales, and subcontracting costs. Patriot Insurance Company auditors are trained to observe your operation and determine the classifications that best reflect potential exposures or risks involved in insuring your business and making sure you have the right coverage to protect your assets.

To make the process easier, we have created this manual which provides important and useful information about auditable policies. It will:

- Outline the audit process and explain why it is necessary
- Provide easy-to-follow steps to make your audit smooth and efficient
- Serve as a handy reference for questions

Of course, we encourage you to contact our team should you require clarification on any issue. Important numbers for customer service are: **207-847-1800** or **866-460-1776**, ext. **4013**.

Service Goal

To better serve you, we strive to have complete policy audits within 90 days of the policy expiration. Proper preparation, as described in this document, will make the audit process swift and efficient.

Agent Responsibilities

The Patriot Insurance Company team believes understanding your insurance should not be difficult. Our agents are proactive partners who serve as your first source for information regarding what to expect from your audit, including the type of audit required and its purpose. Your agent will explain the purpose of the audit and the type of audit required and will attach form FM-626 – Your Policy Premium Is Subject to Adjustment by Audit to your policy. They are your first source for information regarding what to expect from your audit.

Audit Basics

Types of Audits

Upon expiration, policies requiring an audit (performed by a Patriot Insurance Company auditor or a third-party service) will be identified. The policyholder's audit may be conducted in one of four ways, which will be determined based on policy criteria. You will receive a call to schedule the audit and/or a predetermined scheduling letter indicating the type of audit to be performed. The four audit types are outlined below.

A **physical audit** involves a Patriot Insurance Company representative conducting the audit at the policyholder's place of business or accountant's office, wherever your records are kept. In some cases, a **virtual audit** via conference call may be conducted instead of a physical audit. Policyholders may request a virtual audit in special circumstances.

A **telephone audit** is completed over the phone for less complex accounts. Records are submitted electronically to the auditor for review.

A **mail/online audit** is conducted using a form on our website. This option will be communicated by letter, with a username and password assigned to the policyholder to allow access to the form. Information will be submitted through the website for review and processing. Not a fan of online applications? If you prefer, you may call **866-460-1776**, ext. **4013**, to request a hard copy form. The form is mailed directly to the policyholder for completion.

Records Required for Audit

As the policyholder, you will be asked to provide specific business records allowing Patriot Insurance Company to calculate the actual earned premium during the policy period. These may include:

State and Federal Tax Reports – (940, 941, 1065, 1120, 1040-C and more). These documents help the auditor by:

- Verifying payroll figures obtained from detailed earnings records balanced to the tax reports
- Ensuring amounts paid to corporate officers are not included beyond the maximum limitations established for the policy period
- Ensuring the policyholder is not charged a premium on excluded spouses and children
- Identifying and allowing excludable tips to be deducted from gross payroll
- Identifying and allowing the appropriate amount of payroll for policyholders involved in third-party sick pay to be deducted from gross payroll

Payroll Records – Summarized payroll records assist the auditor with assigning payroll to proper risk classifications.

General Ledger – The ledger is another source that helps the auditor verify wages and payments to contract labor.

Cash Disbursement Journal – A cash disbursement journal verifies payments made to individual employees and subcontractors.

Check Register – The check register verifies the names of subcontractors and the amounts they were paid.

Profit and Loss Statements – These statements contain data on subcontract labor for the audit period and can speed up the process by saving the auditor time checking other documents for subcontract labor that do not exist.

Inclusion and Exclusion of Payments Made

Your Patriot Insurance Company auditor will carefully review your business records to identify certain payable items (also called remuneration) that may be excludable. The auditor works to determine two things related to remuneration:

- How much you paid to employees and uninsured subcontractors in wages or other forms of remuneration
- The classification of work performed by employees and uninsured subcontractors

The list below displays what remuneration or payments must be included when calculating the policyholder's actual earned premium.

Included Remuneration

1. Wages or salaries, including those that are retroactive
2. Total cash received by employees for commissions and draws against commissions
3. Bonuses, including stock bonus plans
4. Extra pay for overtime work (except as listed on page 11 in this booklet)
5. Pay for holidays, vacations, or periods of sickness
6. Payment by an employer of amounts otherwise required by law to be paid by the employee's statutory insurance or pension plans such as the federal Social Security Act
7. Payments to employees on any basis other than time worked, such as piecework, profit sharing, or incentive plans
8. Payments or allowances for hand or power tools used and provided by employees in their work for the policyholder
9. The rental value of an apartment or house provided for an employee based on comparable accommodations
10. The value of lodging, other than an apartment or house, received by employees as part of their pay as shown in the policyholder's records
11. The value of meals received by employees as part of their pay, as shown in the policyholder's records
12. The value of store certificates, merchandise, credits, or any other substitute for money received by employees as part of their pay
13. Payments for salary reduction, retirement or cafeteria plans (IRC 125), which are made through deductions from the employee's gross pay
14. Davis-Bacon wages paid to employees or placed by an employer into a third-party pension trusts

The list below displays what remuneration or payments may be excluded when calculating the policyholder's actual earned premium.

Excluded Remuneration

1. Tips and other gratuities received by employees
2. Payments by an employer to group insurance or group pension plans for employees other than payments covered by the list above
3. The value of special rewards for individual invention or discovery
4. Dismissal or severance payments, except for time worked or accrued vacation
5. Work uniform allowances
6. Sick pay paid to an employee by a third policy, such as by a policyholder's group insurance carrier, which is payment of disability income benefits to a disabled employee
7. Payments for active military duty

Audit Verification

Many forms, most completed as part of your year-end income tax calculations, may be used to verify the payroll on an account. Below is a summary of federal forms your Patriot Insurance Company auditor may ask to see. Individual state forms will vary.

Federal Forms			
Entity	Form #	Form Name	Verifies
Sole Proprietorship	Schedule C (Form 1040)	Profit or Loss from Business (Sole Proprietorship)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross receipts or sales (line 1) Wages (line 26) Other expenses (line 27 detail from line 28 on page 2) Picking up and casual labor, miscellaneous labor, or subcontractor expenses Cost of labor (line 37)
Partnership	1065	U.S. Return of Partnership Income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross receipts or sales (line 1a) Salaries and wages (line 9) Other deductions (line 20) A separate schedule should be attached with an itemized listing of deductions. The list identifies any subcontractors, miscellaneous labor, or casual labor exposures. Cost of labor (schedule A, line 3) Attach itemized list. Other costs (schedule A line 5) Attach itemized list.
Corporation	1120	U.S. Corporation Income Tax Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross receipts or sales (line 1a) Compensation of officers (line 12) Salaries and wages (line 13) Other deductions (line 26) A separate schedule should be attached with an itemized listing of deductions. The list identifies any subcontractors miscellaneous labor, or casual labor exposures. Cost of labor (schedule A, line 3) Attach itemized list. Other costs (schedule A, line 5) Attach itemized list.

S-Corporation	1120S	U.S. Income Tax Return for an S-Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gross receipts or sales (line 1a) Compensation of officers (line 7) Salaries and wages (line 8) Other deductions (line 19) <p>A separate schedule should be attached with an itemized listing of deductions. The list identifies any subcontractors, miscellaneous labor, or casual labor exposures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost of labor (schedule A, line 3) <p>Attach itemized list.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other costs (schedule A, line 5) <p>Attach itemized list.</p>
All	940	Employer's Annual Federal Unemployment Tax Return (FUTA)	Total amount paid in wages (part 1, line 3)
All	941	Employer's Quarterly Federal Tax Return	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total quarterly wages paid (line 5c) Number of employees for the quarter (line 1)
All	W-2	Wage and Tax Statement (Employee)	Total wages, tips, and other compensation for an employee
All	W-3	Wage and Tax Statement (Employer)	Total wages, tips, and other compensation paid to all employees
All	1099-MISC	Misc. Income	Documents casual labor
All	UC-1017	Wage Detail Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual employee payroll by quarter Total wages paid for the quarter

Incomplete Audits

Because our mission is to serve our policyholders, your Patriot Insurance Company auditor will make every effort to work with you to make the audit process as painless as possible. However, in the rare circumstance that a policyholder is uncooperative or Patriot Insurance Company auditors cannot complete the audit for reasons beyond our control, the policy may be non-renewed at the underwriter's discretion. Some states allow for a noncompliance charge to be assessed to the policyholder, which can total up to three times the estimated premium.

Current Term Endorsement Due to Audit Results

When an audit identifies exposure changes (increased risks) on an expiring policy, premiums will increase. Patriot Insurance Company will notify the policyholder of our intent to increase the current policy's premium base. At that time, you will have 20 days to dispute the adjustment. Please respond directly to the Premium Audit department in writing or by email, and include documentation to support not increasing exposures on the current term. We will review your request and document your file accordingly.

Audit Disputes

While Patriot Insurance Company works hard to keep our policyholders happy, we understand that, at times, an audit dispute is merited. To make this process easier for policyholders and/or agents, we offer the following guidelines:

Agency Billed – Accounts may be disputed up to 45 days after the end of the month in which the account is billed.

Company Billed – Accounts may be disputed up to 30 days after the final Premium Audit Notice (not the bill) is received by the agency.

Notice of dispute can be submitted via:

- Phone – **207-847-1800** or **866-460-1776**, ext. **4013**
- Email – **claudit@fmins.com**

Once a dispute request has been submitted, a Patriot Insurance Company representative will provide a copy of our Audit Dispute Form. This form must be completed in its entirety and signed by the individual requesting the dispute of the audit. The completed form should be returned to the Premium Audit department via email at **claudit@fmins.com**, along with all supporting documentation for the dispute. Once all information has been received, the audit will be placed in dispute with billing for the audit term premium on hold until the dispute process has concluded.

The following guidelines can be utilized as a reference for supporting documentation required to revise an audit:

- 1.** If the policyholder is questioning payroll figures (including splits), provide copies of a payroll journal or other verifiable documentation to show total pay and any breakdown in pay between different types of job duties. Handwritten figures and percentage splits are not acceptable.
- 2.** If the policyholder is questioning overtime, include a summary of the overtime, broken down by employee or department. The policyholder should also be specific about whether the overtime represents the entire time and a half or is strictly the “premium” or “halftime.”
- 3.** If the policyholder is disputing the classification of a worker, provide a complete and detailed job description for that worker. Also, include the amounts paid to that worker during the audit period.
- 4.** If the policyholder is disputing payments to outside labor or uninsured subcontractors, send copies of the certificates of general liability and/or workers compensation insurance or signed statements of sole proprietor status.
- 5.** If the policyholder is disputing sales figures, provide some form of verifiable records (copy of sales journal, profit & loss statement, etc.).
- 6.** Pay all premiums not in dispute. For example, if the audit generates an additional amount due of \$5,000 and of that amount, \$1,000 is in dispute, the policyholder should submit the \$4,000 not in dispute to the Patriot Insurance Company Billing Department by the due date on the invoice. All of the current term premium should also be paid.

Workers Compensation

Your policy with Patriot Insurance Company is based on an estimated premium. An audit of your business records is required to calculate your actual earned premium for the policy period. Part V of your Patriot Insurance Company workers compensation policy states the role of the policyholder and the reason for the audit. Among the responsibilities of the policyholder are:

- Maintaining and providing, as requested, all business records needed by Patriot Insurance Company to calculate the policy premium.
- Allowing the assigned Patriot Insurance Company representative to examine and audit all records related to this policy. These records include ledgers, journals, registers, vouchers, contracts, tax reports, payroll and disbursement records, and programs for storing and retrieving data.

Audits may be conducted during regular business hours during the policy period and within three years after the policy period ends. Information developed by an audit will be used to determine the final premium.

Please refer to your policy for more information.

Employee Classification

Patriot Insurance Company will determine the classification of employees based on the definition of class code(s) and the job duties or services performed by employees on behalf of the policyholder. Classification codes on the policy are reviewed to ensure they properly reflect your business operation. Then, the appropriate payroll amount is reported for each applicable class code.

No-Payroll Division Classifications

Some types of employee wages are not available for the division of payroll. These include:

- Clerical/Drafting – 8810
- Outside Sales – 8742
- Drivers NOC – 7380
- Executive Supervisors – 5606

Certain class code(s) do not allow incidental or supportive job duties to be separately classed. For example, Code 5645 Carpentry-Dwell includes helpers, cleanup personnel, and other miscellaneous employees at the job site.

In some cases, a policyholder has an employee who divides time between store and driving duties. When this happens, exposure can be allocated to the highest-rated classification to which the employee is exposed. An exception is if an employee's duties change during an audit term and proper records are kept identifying the change. In this case, the payroll can be allocated to the classification applicable to each period.

Interchange of Labor

Some businesses have employees who perform a variety of duties. This is referred to as an interchange of labor. The wages of such employees may be allocated to different classifications if the allocation is:

- Shown separately in the policyholder's original entry records
 - Based on actual payroll incurred in each operation
 - Not based on an estimate or percentage
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Prevailing Wage

Often, a wage paid to an employee working on a government contract is higher than a typical wage. This is called prevailing wage. For example, a nonunion worker may be paid \$10 per hour on a typical contract. The same worker may be paid the union wage of \$18 per hour when working on a government contract. It is the policyholder's responsibility to pay the prevailing wage and any additional benefits required by the government to the employee and to include these wages and benefits in the payroll if they are shown on the W-2 or 941.

Overtime

Overtime is the hours worked for which there is an increase in the rate of pay and can include daily or weekly work beyond the typical hours. (For example, more than eight hours per day or 40 hours per week.) Overtime can also include weekend and holiday work.

The extra payroll for overtime will be excluded from the payroll on which the policy premium is calculated under the following conditions:

- Records show the total pay earned for overtime (regular pay plus overtime pay) in one combined amount. In this case, one-third of the total pay shall be excluded.
- The total pay for overtime paid as double time is recorded separately. In this case, one-half of the total pay for double time shall be excluded.
- Records show separately the extra pay earned for overtime, so the entire extra pay shall be excluded.

The chart below shows an example of how excludable overtime pay is calculated, depending on how the policyholder's records are displayed. The example assumes an hourly wage of \$1.00/hour, time-and-a-half pay of \$1.50/hour, and double-time pay at \$2.00/hour.

Regular	Time and a Half	Double	Total Pay	Excluded Overtime
\$40	\$7.50	\$2	\$49.50	\$3.50
\$46	\$2.50	\$1	\$49.50	\$1.50

Subcontractor Information

Subcontractors are individuals or businesses contracted to perform all or a portion of a job undertaken by the policyholder. Costs for subcontractors are included or excluded from premium calculations based on their classification. There are two types of subcontractors:

- **Uninsured Subcontractors** – A subcontractor without insurance is charged based on the type of work performed. Generally, the total amount paid to the subcontractor is used to calculate audit exposure. However, if records show a separation for labor and materials, then the material cost is excluded, and only the amount for labor is assessed.
- **Insured Subcontractors** – A subcontractor is excluded from the workers compensation audit. The policyholder will need to provide a certificate of insurance as proof of coverage. If applicable, a state exclusion or independent contractor statement form may be submitted.

Certificates of Workers Compensation Insurance

To prove that a subcontractor has its own workers compensation insurance coverage and is eligible to be excluded from your policy, the auditor will require that a valid certificate of insurance be provided. To be valid, the certificate(s) must cover the entire audit period. If the exact date(s) of service are known, the certificate(s) must cover the date(s) of service.

State Exclusions/Exemptions

The Workers Compensation Act allows an exemption for some employees, officers, partners, or members. A certificate must be provided to your auditor to prove these exclusions. Please consult with your agent or contact our Premium Audit department for more information.

Independent Contractor Statement

Payments made to independent contractors may be excluded from your premium calculation, but only if certain standards are met. Generally, a person cannot be considered an independent contractor based on an agreement between the policyholder and that individual. An independent contractor must maintain a separate business and render independent services to the public. If this individual is directed and controlled by the policyholder, they are probably an employee and not an independent contractor.

Each independent contractor is required to complete the Independent Contractor Statement/FM-901. This form is provided with every new and renewal policy or can be provided by the Premium Audit department. The form assists an auditor in determining whether an independent contractor is an employee or a true independent contractor not subject to workers compensation coverage. Since many factors affect status, the auditor will look for reasonable proof prior to excluding the independent contractor from premium calculations.

Independent contractor statement forms must be reviewed and completed each year as the status of subcontractors often changes. It is very important that this form is completed by the contractor at the time of hire by the policyholder. After work by the subcontractor is completed, it can be extremely difficult for the policyholder to obtain the required information.

The signed statement may be sent via email (claudit@fmns.com) or mail (**1 Mutual Avenue, Frankenmuth, MI 48787**) to Patriot Insurance Company's Premium Audit department for immediate review.

Special Rules of Workers Compensation

To help our policyholders better understand workers compensation, we have listed and described some of the most common workers compensation rules below.

Records from Subcontractors Who Use Employee Leasing Companies

Leasing workers from an employee leasing company is a growing employment trend. In this arrangement, the leasing company (Business A) hires the employees of another business (Business B). Business B then leases some or all of the employees back from Business A.

If a policyholder hires a subcontractor (Business B) who leases its employees from a leasing company (Business A), this subcontractor may provide the policyholder with a certificate of workers compensation insurance, naming the leasing company (Business A) as the “named insured.” However, when performing the work for the policyholder, Business B may utilize additional employees who are not covered under its leasing arrangement.

To help eliminate premium charges and confusion concerning leased workers, the policyholder should require an additional certificate of workers compensation insurance, stating that the subcontractor (Business B) does not have any other employees, casual laborers, or subcontractors with employees, except for the leased workers. In the absence of this certificate or signed statement, premium charges for this subcontractor (Business B) will be included unless auditors are given access to the books of the subcontractor (Business B) to determine if additional exposure exists. The books of the subcontractor (Business B) must be available at the policyholder’s location at the same time the audit is completed.

Vehicles Under Contract

Specific guidelines govern the inclusion or exclusion of drivers of vehicles under contract. Generally, these guidelines are as follows:

- If the owner of the vehicle has not furnished evidence of workers compensation coverage for their drivers, the total payroll of all drivers will be added to the policyholder’s payroll for inclusion in premium calculations.
- If that payroll is not available, the payroll will be calculated at one-third of the total contract price for the vehicles.
- If the owner of a vehicle under contract is also a driver and does not furnish evidence of workers compensation coverage, one-third of the contract price for the vehicle will be included in the policyholder’s total payroll for inclusion in premium calculations.

General Liability

As you have learned through this document, your policy with Patriot Insurance Company is based on an estimated premium. To calculate the actual earned premium for the policy period, an audit of your records is required. The liability can be based on total cost, admissions, each unit of exposure, or number of employees. Descriptions of these bases of premium follow.

Bases of Premium

- **Gross Sales** – This is the gross amount charged by the named policyholder, all concessionaires, other entities trading under the policyholder’s name for goods or products sold or distributed, operations performed during the policy period, rentals, and dues or fees.
 - **Inclusions** – Foreign exchange discounts, freight allowance to customers, total sales of consigned goods and warehouse receipts, trade or cash discounts, bad debts, and repossession of items sold in installments (amount collected).
 - **Exclusions** – Sales or excise taxes that are collected and submitted to a governmental division, credits for repossessed merchandise and products returned (allowances for damaged and spoiled goods), finance charges for items sold in installments, freight charges on sales if freight is charged as a separate item on customer’s invoice, and royalty income from patent rights or copyrights that are not product sales.
 - **Payroll** – Inclusions and exclusions for payroll were listed previously in this document (page 5). However, liability for payroll follows the same rules as the workers compensation liabilities with a few exceptions, which will be covered later in this section.
 - **Total Cost** – The total cost of all work let or sublet relative to each specific project. This includes the cost of all labor, materials, and equipment used or delivered for use in the execution of the work, along with all fees, bonuses, or commissions made, paid, or due. Regardless of who furnishes the materials and/or equipment for use by the subcontractors, these costs are included in the calculation of total cost.
 - **Each** – This involves units of exposure. The quantity of each unit of exposure is indicated in the classification footnotes, such as “per person.”
 - **Admissions** – The total number of people admitted to an event or to events conducted on the premises, whether on paid admissions, ticketed, complimentary tickets, or passes are referred to as admissions.
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Officers

The treatment of officers depends on the basis of premium. Those types follow.

- **Sales-Based** – The gross sales cover the risk.
 - **Payroll-Based** – Active officers are included at a flat officer amount.
 - **Number of Employees** – Owners/officers/partners/members are included as full-time if they are active in the business, regardless of the time worked and their job duties. Officers/owners/partners/members doing clerical or outside sales are included.
-

Employee Classification

Your auditor will determine the classification of employees based on the definition of class code(s) and job duties or services performed. Classification codes on the policy are reviewed to ensure they properly reflect the policyholder’s business operation. Then, the appropriate payroll amount is reported for each applicable class code.

Excluded Employee Payroll

In some cases, payroll for employees performing specific functions or working in prescribed environments is excluded. Among the exclusions are:

- Payroll of clerical office employees who work in an area physically separated by walls, floors, or partitions from all other work areas and whose duties are strictly limited to keeping the policyholder's books or records or conducting correspondence, including any other employees engaged in clerical work in the same area.
 - Exceptions – Certain classifications include the payroll of outside salespersons, collectors, messengers, and clerical employees.
- Payroll of salespersons, collectors, or messengers whose work is primarily performed away from the policyholder's premises. This term does not apply to any employee whose duties include the delivery of any merchandise handled, treated, or sold.
- Payroll of drivers and their helpers, if their principal duties are to work on or in connections with automobiles.
- Payroll of draftsmen, if their duties are limited to office work only and who are engaged strictly as draftsmen in such a manner that they are not exposed to the operative hazards of the business.
 - Exceptions – Payroll of draftsmen shall be assigned to the classification 91805-Draftsmen if the draftsmen are employed by the policyholder in the business of providing engineering or architectural drawing services to others based on customer specifications or are employed by contractors for drafting plans and designs for specific jobs. This classification does not apply to manufacturing operations that have draftsmen or drafting departments.

Prevailing Wage

Often, a wage paid to an employee working on a government contract is higher than a typical wage. This is called prevailing wage. For example, a nonunion worker may be paid \$10 per hour on a typical contract. The same worker may be paid the union wage of \$18 per hour when working on a government contract. It is the policyholder's responsibility to pay the prevailing wage and any additional benefits required by the government to the employee and to include these wages and benefits in the payroll if they are shown on the W-2 or 941.

Leased Employees

The payroll of leased workers furnished to the policyholder by a labor leasing firm is included. The premium on such payroll shall be based on the classifications and rates that would have applied if the leased workers had been the direct employees of the named policyholder. If payroll is unavailable, 100% of the total cost of the contract for leased workers will be used. The premium shall be charged on that amount as payroll.

Temporary Employees

Fees paid to employment agencies for temporary personnel provided to the policyholder are included.

Drivers of Automobiles and Their Helpers

The payroll of drivers and their helpers should not be included when developing payroll for classifications such as 99793 Truckers and 95233 Garbage, Ash, or Refuse Collecting. The payroll of such employees is an exposure normally provided by an automobile insurance policy. Do not confuse drivers of automobiles and their helpers with that of mobile equipment operators and their helpers. Mobile equipment operators are included in the premium charge. See Mobile Equipment Operators below.

Subcontractor Information

As defined previously, a subcontractor is an individual or business contracted to perform all or a portion of a job undertaken by the policyholder. There are two types of subcontractors:

- **Uninsured Subcontractors** – A subcontractor without insurance is charged based on the type of work performed. Generally, they are charged at total cost unless their records clearly show a separation of labor and materials. When separated, the material cost is excluded, and the amount of labor is charged. Once proof of insurance is provided, the total cost of material and labor is included in the policyholder subcode.
 - **Insured Subcontractors** – An insured subcontractor will provide a valid certificate of liability insurance covering the audit period. This allows the auditor to include the total cost paid to the subcontractor in the applicable contractor classification. Coverage protects the policyholder from vicarious liability arising from torts, negligent hiring of incompetent subcontractors, or when the subcontractor does not have adequate coverage limits.
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Certificates of Liability Insurance

As the policyholder, you will need to provide these certificates as proof that subcontractors have their own liability insurance coverage. You may need certificates for two different years to cover the entire audit period. Patriot Insurance Company advises you to obtain these certificates prior to work being performed, as it can be difficult to obtain these certificates once work by the subcontractor has been completed.

Mobile Equipment Operators

The payroll of mobile equipment operators and their helpers, regardless of designation or licensure to operate automobiles, is included in premium calculations. If the operators and their helpers are provided to the policyholder, along with the equipment hired under contract, and their actual payroll is not known, one-third of the total amount paid out by the policyholder for the hire of the equipment will be used.

Special Rules of General Liability

To help our policyholders better understand general liability, we have listed and described some of the most common rules below.

Intra-Company vs. Inter-Company Sales – Sales made between several locations within one company/corporation/legal entity is called intra-company sales. For example, Business A may sell productions to Business B or vice versa. There is no exposure to the public, and as a result, no charge is made for the audit.

Inter-Company Sales occur between more than one company/corporation/legal entity. For example, the named policyholder could be BOTH Business A and Business B. These businesses are separate legal entities that can sell products and services to each other and may sue each other despite being on the same policy. Therefore, the premium charge is based on all sales generated by each named policyholder, including intercompany transactions. If the policy is written with form CG-2141 – Exclusion – Intercompany Products Suits, the portion of the gross sales representing the intercompany transactions should be excluded from the products premium base. The premises/operations base is not affected by this endorsement.

Mercantile Risks – Mercantile risks follow a special classification inclusion in which installation, servicing, or repair of merchandise sold or distributed by the risk company shall not be separately classified and rated. It does not matter if the installation work is done by employees, adequate policyholder subcontractors, or inadequate policyholder subcontractors. Unless the classification specifically states installation is to be separately rated, the special inclusion rule should be applied.

Manufacturing Risks – Manufacturing risks follow a special classification inclusion in which installation, servicing, or repair of the policyholder's products shall not be separately classified and rated. It does not matter if the installation work is done by employees, adequate policyholder subcontractors, or inadequate policyholder subcontractors. Unless the classification specifically states installation is to be separately rated, the special inclusion rule should be applied.

Frequently Asked Questions

When can Independent Contractor Statement (ICS) forms be used?

ICS forms are used only by sole proprietors with no employees. The form helps the auditor to determine independent contractor status for workers compensation purposes and is not applicable for general liability audits. All subcontractors must have general liability coverage to be listed as an insured subcontractor on the audit.

Why am I being charged for a subcontractor when they sent in an ICS?

There can be many reasons for this charge, among them:

- The form may be old. Information provided on the form should be current and must apply to the audit term.
 - The entity may not be a sole proprietor.
 - The subcontractor may have hired additional help.
 - Clients may not be listed or phone numbers may not be provided.
 - The certificate of insurance may show a different entity than the sole proprietor indicated on the form.
 - The ICS form may not be complete (e.g., signature, date, etc.).
 - If the audit is a general liability audit, the ICS form is not applicable. All subcontractors must have general liability coverage to be listed as an insured subcontractor on the audit.
 - Independent contractor status may be incorrect. The method of payment (1099 vs. W-2) alone does not determine independent contractor status. An independent contractor must operate a business offering services to the public or other businesses, and must not be dependent on one client alone for income. A subcontractor working only for the policyholder is considered a statutory employee.
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All the subcontractors are insured. Why is their exposure charged on the general liability audit?

Although the subcontractor provides their own general liability insurance, the insured subcontractor classification is additional coverage made available to the insured on a commercial policy. It protects the policyholder from “vicarious liability,” which may arise out of acts performed by the subcontractor, such as the following:

- Torts committed by the subcontractor
 - Negligent hiring of incompetent subcontractors
 - Subcontractors that do not have adequate coverage limits
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Why is the Premium Audit Notice showing an estimated premium when the estimated exposure is zero?

We realize this can be confusing. However, typically, this is the result of a policy with a midterm change. If the estimated exposure for a classification is reduced to zero midterm, the premium notice will show zero estimated exposure. The estimated premium will be the actual amount collected for that classification while it was in place on the policy with exposure. Midterm changes are prorated for the time they are effective.

What is the change in premium for the revision? The Premium Audit Notice is confusing.

The Premium Audit Notice for a revision shows the additional or returned premium adjustment from the prior audit notice. The figures are always calculated against the prior audit notice, not from the original estimated premium.

My employee is clerical. Why is he or she not classified as clerical?

Clerical duties exclude any worker exposed to the operative hazards of the business. Clerical employees must be exclusively engaged in bookkeeping, record-keeping, correspondence, or other office work where books and other records are kept and such business is conducted. This classification applies only to employees who work in areas physically separated from other operations by structural partitions and in which only clerically defined employees work. If such an employee has any other duty, the total payroll of that employee shall be assigned to the highest-rated classification of operations to which the employee is exposed.

My employees perform duties that may fall within more than one class code. The auditor was provided a percentage split of their payroll. Why didn't the auditor split the payroll of the employees between the applicable classifications?

The policyholder's records should provide a breakdown of wages per classification/duties to split payroll between codes. However, per ISO rules, payroll cannot be split between applicable classifications based on a percentage breakdown. If the policyholder's policy records do not show a breakdown in wages per the classification/duties performed during the policy period, then the exposure must go to the highest-rated classification to which the employee has exposure.

Some employees perform interior carpentry only. Why were they included with the rough carpentry exposure in code 91340 instead of interior carpentry code 91341?

Per ISO rules, class 91341 does not apply to contractors engaged in any other carpentry operations at the same job or location. Though the policyholder may keep a breakdown in his or her records, Patriot Insurance Company auditors must place all the carpentry exposure in 91340.

We hired a subcontractor who has no employees but is a corporation. Can an ICS be used to remove the cost of the subcontractor from the audit?

No. A corporate officer is considered an employee of a corporation. All employers regularly employing one or more employees must carry workers compensation coverage. Please note individual state rules vary regarding who is required to carry and is covered by the Workers Compensation Act of that state.

Why can't I exclude my family members from workers compensation?

The treatment of family members will differ depending on the entity status of the policyholder (i.e., partnership, LLC, or corporation) and the state in which the business operates. Seek additional information from your insurance agent or contact our Premium Audit department for state-specific rules.