

Does Your Insurance Policy Cover You for Seasonal Increases??

Throughout the year, the stock and money levels of a business will fluctuate. For most retail businesses, this will be during the Christmas and Easter periods because this is the time when most businesses order extra stock to cater for the increased consumer demand and to avoid potential delays from their suppliers. For Postal Agents, they are some of the busiest times of the year as people send seasonal cards to their work colleagues, friends and family.

These peak periods present a challenge for you – the increased stock levels mean that you have higher than normal levels which are exposed to a potential loss. For example:

- For Fire, damage to stock at the premises;
- For Burglary, theft of stock at the premises; and
- For Money, the increased money levels which are exposed to theft.

The Business Insurance policy available to POAAL members has been specially designed to provide cover to protect you against this. It provides cover for:

1. Fire ¹:

An increase in the stock sum insured of 30% or \$75,000, whichever is the lesser, during the:

- a) 60 days prior to Christmas Day and for 21 days following Christmas Day; and
- b) 35 days prior to Easter Tuesday.

2. Burglary ¹:

An increase in the stock sum insured of 30% during the:

- a) 60 days prior to Christmas Day and for 21 days following Christmas Day; and
- b) 35 days prior to Easter Tuesday.

3. Money ¹:

An increase in the sums insured of 30% during the:

- a) 60 days prior to Christmas Day and for 21 days following Christmas Day;
- b) 35 days prior to Easter Tuesday;
- c) bank holiday(s); and
- d) gazetted public holidays (other than bank holidays), which fall on days adjacent to a weekend;

where the maximum increase is 30% at any one time even if there is a gazetted public holiday during the “Christmas” or “Easter” periods.

These increases are important to you because it gives you a peace of mind that you are protected for the anticipated peaks in your business. If you require an increase outside the above periods, the policy is flexible to cater for such period. Please contact GWS Genco Group who can assist with tailoring your sums insured to your individual business needs.

With around 17%² of small businesses under-insured, it is important that you regularly review all the sums insured for your business to ensure that they reflect the current, new replacement costs. (While reviewing your sums insured, it would also be worthwhile reviewing the type of insurance you have in place for your business – around 17%² of all small business are uninsured and around 54%² of small businesses do not have Business Interruption &/or Liability Insurance.) Ensuring that you have the correct sums insured and the necessary types of insurance means that you will be properly compensated for a financial loss which means that you will be in a better position to get back into business, and more quickly.

¹ For full details of cover, please refer to the policy booklet or contact GWS Genco Group.

² Figure from an Insurance Council of Australia report titled “Report on Non-Insurance/Under-Insurance in the Home and Small Business Portfolio” dated October 2002.

*Article supplied by POAAL's insurance partner, GWS Genco Group. For more information on insurance or claims (including details of the Business Insurance policy available to POAAL's members), please contact **GWS Genco Group directly from anywhere in Australia on 1300 881 229.***