Insurance Requirements

Special Insurance

Do I need special insurance to work in nuclear?

The simple answer is “No”, although you will need to notify your insurers (via your broker) that you will be working on a nuclear site.

Under the Nuclear Installations Act (NIA), ‘Licenced Operators’ of a ‘Nuclear Licenced Site’ are liable (currently up to a limit of £140m) for any nuclear damage (arising from the site), regardless of fault. For Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) sites, to be the Licenced Operator of a nuclear site you would:

- have a direct contract (known as a Maintenance and Operations Contract) with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and
- be licenced to operate a nuclear site by the Nuclear Directorate of the Health and Safety Executive.

If you are not a Licenced Operator you do not have a strict liability for a nuclear incident under the NIA and therefore do not need to purchase nuclear liability insurance.

NDA arranges insurance for all of the Nuclear Licenced Sites which form part of NDA’s estate to cover the strict liability under the NIA for personal injury and damage to third party property resulting from a nuclear incident.

NDA also provides Construction All Risks insurance cover for construction projects on sites which form part of the NDA estate. This ensures that all contractors and subcontractors of any level are covered under one policy if there is damage to the Works.
Insurance Requirements

General Insurance

The usual business insurances will be required if you are working on a nuclear site. These include but are not limited to:

- Employers Liability
- Public Liability / Professional Indemnity
- Property Damage and Business Interruption

The limits required under each of these policies will be determined by your specific contract, depending on the type of work being carried out.

It is usual for these policies to contain a 'Nuclear Exclusion' which means that damage resulting from a nuclear release is not covered by the insurance policy. However, damage caused by a nuclear release on site will be covered by the NDA policy (as mentioned above). You will still be liable for any non-nuclear damage you cause to NDA's or any other third party property and you should ensure that your Public Liability policy will respond.

NDA has arranged assistance from an insurance broker Willis to provide insurance quotes for any SME. Willis is the current NDA broker and has Nuclear expertise. Willis will not charge to provide a quote, costs will only be incurred should a policy be placed by them.
BRIEFING NOTE
In response to feedback that insurers were imposing both restrictions to cover and punitive terms, especially to SME contractors, when conducting work on behalf on nuclear installations the NDA have in conjunction with Willis devised two solutions to these problems

STANDALONE FACILITY
This would allow a contractor to utilise a specialist facility with insurers with an in-depth understanding of the activities being undertaken in respect of the following;

PLANT
Insurance against physical loss or damage to the contractor’s plant and equipment when on NDA sites. This is to counter the concern that some insurers have in relation to the potential for nuclear contamination of the plant.

PUBLIC LIABILITY (PL)
Contractors would be able to access a dedicated excess PL facility to provide cost effective top up of contractors existing insurances to achieve the minimum contractual requirement. The facility has the capability to provide coverage up to £150m at preferential terms due to the economies of bulk access to underwriting capacity.

PROFESSIONAL INDEMNITY (PI)
In response to suggestions that insurers require significantly increased premiums together with onerous procedural requirements we have assembled a panel of insurers with an appetite for contractors who undertake design in the highly scrutinised and supervised health and safety regime of nuclear installations.

ANNUAL FACILITY
Willis have also devised a solution which would allow Contractors to obtain an alternative, no obligations quote for the principle insurances of Employers Liability, PL, Contractors All Risks and PI with insurers who understand the exposures their work profile generates.

Through a panel of pre-selected, specialist insurers we can benchmark your existing group insurances which cover all the contractors’ activities, not just those for NDA. With a bespoke policy wording the contractor is able to tailor both the level of coverage and the deductible level to ensure that an effective comparison is made.

BENEFITS
- Coverage and deductibles which can be dovetailed to the contractor’s individuals requirements
- claims handling through insurers understanding of the nuclear sector
- Recognised insurers with a Standard and Poor’s rating of A or better
- Automatic approval by NDA of the contractor’s insurance arrangements
- Potential for cheaper premium and easier renewal process. Automatic compliance with the NDA’s contractual requirements
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