

Do you know what you are covered for?

Among the many benefits of being an SFMTA member is access to exclusive business insurance services. JLT Business Insurance Services are the approved insurance broker of the SFMTA and have been working with the SFMTA for some 10 + years. In addition to the wealth of knowledge of the needs of butchers, we are also one of the country's leading insurance brokers with a depth of experience working across a variety of small businesses.

We were recently posed some questions about the insurance cover we offer butchers:-

"Fridges, Freezers and Cold Rooms are obviously a crucial part of running a butchers business. What do our members need to remember when insuring them?"

Fridges, freezers and internal cold rooms themselves need to be included in the overall sums insured under the Material Damage section of the policy. External Cold Rooms and freezers require specifying separately.

Cover will extend to any purpose built or converted outbuilding used as a cold store/freezer on the same premises. Such cold store/freezer should be built from brick, stone or concrete and roofed with slate, tile concrete, asbestos or any other non-combustible material.

Any structure not built from brick stone or concrete can still be considered but should be notified to the broker as this falls outside of the normal standard policy definitions.

In summary any separate structure with its own lockable door, power and lighting may be considered for cover.

You also need to consider covering the contents of the fridges, freezers or cold rooms when assessing your stock sum insured. Make sure it is adequate and to be absolutely certain cover is placed correctly, declare the percentage relating to stock of external cold rooms and freezers separately.

Your insurance cover will usually automatically include damage to stock in any freezer cabinet, deep freezer, cold room, cold store or chilled cabinet due to changes in temperature arising from any cause except a deliberate act of any public electricity authority, neglect or misuse.

We recognise that certain times of the year are particularly busy for butchers so the cover we provide includes an automatic 50% increase on the stock sum insured during November, December, the first 14 days in January and for

30 days before Easter Day, and if these limits are still not adequate we can offer the limit you need, simply contact us prior to taking receipt of your delivery.

"What do members need to be aware of when it comes to insuring money on the premises?"

Most shop policies will include set limits of cover for loss of money at the premises, the limit covered will vary during business hours, out of business hours, in transit and in a bank night safe. It is strongly recommended that these limits are checked against anticipated trading projections to ensure the cover is adequate and any conditions or warranties are complied with. For example, when taking cash over a certain limit to a bank, there will be a "carrying condition" stipulating how much money any one person can carry on their person and could even stipulate what the money is carried in.

The definition of "Money" will include cash, bank and currency notes, cheques, postal orders, money orders and crossed banker's drafts.

"What liability does a person have to consider when they are running a business?"

Employers' Liability (EL) is compulsory for any individual or company with employees. You are only exempt if your company is a family business i.e. if all of your employees are closely related to you as husband, wife, civil partner, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, stepfather, stepmother, son, daughter, grandson, granddaughter, stepson, stepdaughter, brother, sister, half-brother or half-sister (however, this exemption does not apply to family businesses which are incorporated as limited companies) or companies employing only their owner where that employee also owns 50% or more of the issued share capital in the company. There are other exemptions under the Act, for details of these you should refer to JLT Business Insurance Services.

A valid Employers Liability (EL) Certificate must be made readily accessible to all employees and clearly displayed in each place of work. Recent changes to legislation (introduced 01 October 2008) now allow Employers to display their EL certificate electronically, provided it remains easily accessible by all employees.

In addition it is strongly recommended that a business has Public Liability to cover the Legal Liability for injury, loss or damage to members of the public or third parties. Cover is in respect of damages as well as costs and expenses incurred in the event of a claim for injury or for damage to property. Examples are customers tripping when visiting the business premises or damage to customers' premises on delivery of goods. (NB this insurance does not cover motor incidents - you must have an appropriate motor policy in force to cover your business vehicles).

You should also bear in mind that any business that provides goods could incur legal liability for injury or damage caused by those products. The Consumer Protection Act 1987 imposes a strict liability for injury or damage caused to consumers, examples could be a foreign object being found in food causing personal injury.

"What other benefits do our members qualify for when taking out a policy with JLT Business Insurance Services?"

Any SFMTA member taking out a Shop Insurance policy with JLT Business Insurance Services will have the reassurance that the cover will include full legal expenses cover up to a limit of £100,000.

They can also spread the cost of the premium by the Interest and Deposit FREE 12 month instalment facility that we offer.

For full details on all cover available to SFMTA members call us on: 0800 454 371 or go online at www.jltbis.co.uk

Remember all insurance policies have certain exclusions and conditions. This description of cover is only an outline and does not detail exactly what is and what is not covered. The policy wording will define the insurance in precise terms. If you require any further information or assistance please contact your Insurance Provider or JLT Business Insurance Services.

This editorial has been provided by JLT Business Insurance Services, the preferred insurance provider for SFMTA members.

Making Business Insurance More Personal

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