

# ARCHITECT & ENGINEER POLICY COMPETITION CHECKLIST

Schinnerer provides one of the most comprehensive architect & engineer professional liability policies available in the market. Our professional liability program has been established for more than 50 years and is commended by both the AIA and NSPE. We know the design industry and believe that a client who knows they have their bases covered is in the best position to move forward and grow their business.

While many competitors can offer competitive prices, few match our breadth of coverage and depth of experience. With that in mind, before making any decision in placing your AE clients, take a look at the following checklist. Do your other markets measure up?

Do your other markets have.....?

	Schinnerer		Other Market	
	Y	N	Y	N
1. Unrestricted consent to settle	✓			
2. Unrestricted pollution coverage	✓			
3. Prior acts back to the beginning of the company	✓			
4. Free pre claims assistance	✓			
5. Regulatory response payments	✓			
6. Deductible credit available in all cases	✓			
7. Risk management services	✓			
8. Premium auditing		✓		
9. Exclusions for estimating or construction management		✓		
10. Mold and asbestos exclusions		✓		

Why do these points matter?

## Unrestricted Consent to Settle

In the event an insured has a claim, the company will only cover up to an amount determined by their adjusters as the cost for which the claim could have been settled. Since so much in the professional world depends on reputation this may mean that the insured has to settle a claim instead of having the full resources afforded by the policy limits to fight a meritless claim and preserve their company's good name. This is of particular importance in the case of a firm that is vying for municipal or state contracts as they will generally want a firm that is as clean as possible with respect to reputation.

## Unrestricted Pollution Incident Coverage

This coverage applies to the dispersal, escape, or release of pollutants into the environment. It is not tied solely to professional services. As accidents do happen in the construction industry many of our clients have found this coverage to be extremely valuable and in some respects essential. The client may also have contracts which require him to carry pollution coverage as a precondition to their performance of professional services. They will want to go over these contracts prior to going with any policy that would represent such a material change in coverage.

## Full Prior Acts Available

Schinnerer's policy may provide full prior acts coverage back to the inception of the insured's business after five continuous

years of professional liability coverage. Many competitors will only offer prior acts coverage back to the inception date of the insured's first professional liability policy. In some cases this means Schinnerer provides coverage for years of operations that no other carrier will pick up.

### Free Pre Claims Assistance

Should an incident be reported to us, we will investigate and take measures to mitigate the potential effects of that incident at our discretion at no cost to the insured. This has the benefit of resolving potential claims before they become issues that may require the insured's appearance in court or the payment of their deductible obligation.

### Regulatory Response Payments

Schinnerer's policy will reimburse the insured up to \$25,000 in responding to regulatory action brought under the ADA, FHA, or OSHA provided that actions meets certain conditions. This first \$25,000 is not subject to the deductible, nor will it erode policy limits.

### Deductible Credit

Many companies offer a deductible credit for claims resolved in mediation. Schinnerer's Risk Mitigation credit will provide deductible credit regardless of the method of dispute resolution utilized. Even if a claim does go all the way to litigation they will still be eligible for 50% off their deductible provided they can demonstrate they have met 3 of 6 criteria laid out in the policy with respect to their risk management practices.

### Risk Management Services

Schinnerer provides easily accessible risk management information to all our policyholders. Accessible to policyholders through [www.PlanetRiskManagement.com](http://www.PlanetRiskManagement.com), we have a wide range of management advisories, contract review tools and resources to use. There is a dedicated risk manager on call at all times and free contract review services in relation to professional liability are provided free of charge to all policyholders.

### Premium Auditing

Some companies will reserve the right to audit an insured and adjust a premium at any time. A change in business activity, a new outlook on a certain type of business or the filing of a claim could all trigger an audit and the possibility of an increased premium. The Schinnerer policy is not auditable and any change in premium will only occur at renewal or for the issuance of an endorsement.

### No Exclusions for Cost Estimating and Construction Management

We do not want our clients to have to worry that what they do is excluded in the fine print. Some forms we have come across contain exclusions that deny coverage for any claim related to these two services. Our form was intentionally written with an extremely broad definition of professional services that includes "technical consultant" to provide expansive coverage for our insureds.

### No Exclusions for Mold and Asbestos work

Our policy does not have any exclusion for mold or asbestos work either on the professional liability coverage or the pollution coverage. Depending on the type of work the client is engaged in this can be a key point of concern.