

Public Service Announcement

CERTIFICATES OF INSURANCE

A Certificate of Insurance is a snapshot of insurance coverage in existence at the time the Certificate is issued. A Certificate of Insurance is provided most often for informational purposes. Consumers should request a Certificate of Insurance before entering into a contractual relationship with an individual or company providing building repair, maintenance or other services. A Certificate of Insurance is not an insurance policy and it provides no benefit of insurance to the holder of the certificate. It is not a guaranty of insurance coverage during the lifetime of a contractual relationship.

Certificates of Insurance summarize the terms, policy period, limits of liability and type of coverage included in an insurance policy only as of the date on the certificate. When requesting a Certificate of Insurance from an individual or company with whom they are doing business consumers should be sure the Certificate includes the following information:

- the name and address, phone and fax numbers of the insurance company's agent or producer who issued the Certificate,
- the name and address of the insurance company,
- the name and address of the insured or policy holder,
- the policy term or period and the policy number(s),
- the type of policy and the policy limits of liability,
- the signature of the insurance company's agent or representative (agent/producer),
- the date of issuance of the certificate.

Consumers can check the authenticity of the Certificate and the existence of insurance coverage by contacting the agent/producer or the insurance company listed on the Certificate. An agent/producer issuing a Certificate of Insurance must be sure that the policy terms and coverage are accurately described on the Certificate. Each Certificate of Insurance or other evidence of insurance coverage should explain that: "This certificate is issued as a matter of information only and confers no rights upon the certificate holder. This certificate does not amend, extend or alter the coverage afforded by policies referenced herein."

A Certificate of Insurance does not guarantee that an insurance policy will remain in place throughout the duration of a business relationship. Consumers should also speak with the individual or company with whom they are contracting for work, and verify that there will be continued appropriate insurance coverage until the completion of the work and the end of the contractual relationship.

For further information please contact the NH Insurance Department at (603) 271-2261 or the Attorney General's Consumer Protection and Anti-Trust Bureau at (603) 271-3641.