

Why Companies Require Professional Liability Insurance

More and more companies are relying on consultants for an outsider's perspective on business objectives. Whether bringing in a freelance accountant to review financial data or hiring a chemist to solve a problem, organizations are hiring both short and long-term consultants at a high rate.

Companies that rely on consultants face enormous risks when bringing in outside, temporary experts. The potential for errors and omissions, cybercrime and accidents that may occur during experiments, make organizations proceed with caution. Organizations are looking for assurances that their risks will be protected, and that is why many businesses now require their consultants to carry professional liability insurance.

What is Professional Liability Insurance?

Professional liability insurance (often known as Errors & Omissions) protects consultants from any actual or perceived mishaps as a result of consulting work. As a chemical consultant, you are often walking into an organization that trusts you to plan, create and implement highly technical processes, many of which are beyond the scope of your client's expertise. While companies trust you to manage projects effectively, they also understand the high level of risk involved.

Actual Mishap Example

Say a chemical consultant delivers incorrect lab results that a company then uses in an environmental assessment. That company would be liable for any damages and would expect a consultant's insurance coverage to pay for any fines and fees associated with the error. These fees could extend into the six figures.

That's why it is necessary for a chemical consultant to carry liability insurance before starting any project. While companies expect the best, they know an error may result in costly damages.

Perceived Mishap Example

A consultant is brought in to provide advice on how to best clean up a polluted river. That consultant lays out a plan, but the company does not follow through on the plan. After an environmental review, the company blames the poor results on the consultant.

The cost to defend yourself against this kind of claim is expensive. Attorneys are costly, even if it seems easy to prove that you were not at fault for alleged damages. Professional liability insurance helps cover legal costs when you are accused of an error or omission by your client.

Unique Coverage

Hays Companies provides professional liability coverage that was created to meet the unique challenges chemical consultants face, including enhancements not usually covered by general liability policies. Our Professional Liability coverage for chemical consultants is endorsed by the American Chemical Society Board of Trustees for ACS members. We offer competitive premiums and group prices exclusive to ACS members. You'll have access to dedicated claims attorneys who have experience working with chemical consultants.

If you have any questions about professional liability insurance coverage from Hays Companies, please visit www.acs.haysprograms.com or email us at programs@hayscompanies.com.

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