

Frequently Asked Questions

Why is an audit necessary?

Your business may not have been as busy or busier than usual. Your premium is determined by some of these factors so an audit can help determine how much premium you should be charged.

If overtime is not summarized, will I still get credit?

Overtime records must show overtime pay separately by employee or classification in order to be deducted.

If I don't have certificates of insurance from subcontractors for the audit, will I be able to get them?

We recommend obtaining the certificate from the subcontractor prior to the work being performed. If no certificate is provided at time of audit, you will be charged for subcontractors and their employees.

Several of my employees do more than one type of work. How should I assign their payrolls?

Their payrolls can be divided among classifications as long as it is also reflected on the original records in dollar amounts.

Some of my work could be considered clerical and sales. Should I separate it?

No. The clerical and sales classifications cannot be used with any other class for division of a single employee's payroll.

Is it necessary to provide audit information if my renewal policy has been canceled?

Yes, policies are issued using estimated payrolls so the actual payroll needs to be known to determine if additional premium is due to us or a return premium is due to you.

In some states, a surcharge may be applied to the workers' compensation policy for failure to comply with the audit process.

Definitions

Remuneration

Commonly called payroll. It includes wages, the value of meals and lodging and other substitutes for money.*

*Substitutes for money include draws, dividends, traveling expenses and travel time payments, gift certificates or merchandise credits, annuities and contributions to individual retirement accounts. This list is not all inclusive but represents common substitutes for money. Your premium auditor will discuss this with you at the time of your audit.

Overtime

The hours worked for which there is an increase in the rate of pay. It includes:

- Work in excess of 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week.
- Work on Saturdays, Sundays or holidays.
- Work in any day or week in excess of a guaranteed wage agreement.

Extra pay for shift differential is not considered overtime.

Ordinarily, overtime pay is equal to 1.5 times the regular hourly rate. For example, a regular pay rate of \$10 per hour at time and a half generates a \$15 per hour overtime rate.

If the extra \$5 of pay is shown separately, it is excluded in total. If total overtime wage is shown in a combined amount of \$15 (*regular pay plus increase*) and included in gross payroll, one third (\$5) will be deducted from gross pay.

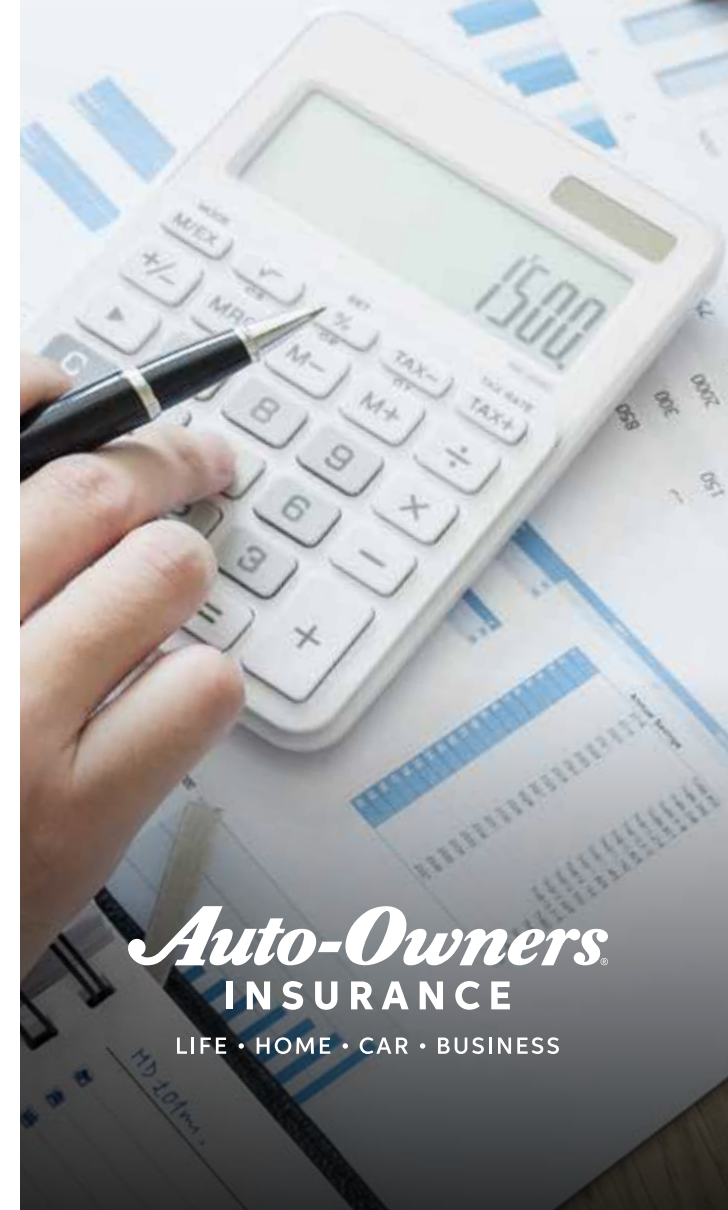
If the overtime wage is calculated at double time, one half will be deducted from gross pay.

Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

Note: The analysis of coverage is in general terms and is superseded in all respects by the Insuring Agreements, Endorsements, Exclusions, Terms and Conditions of the Policy. Some of the coverage mentioned in this material may not be applicable in all states or may have to be modified to conform to applicable state law. Some coverages may have been eliminated or modified since the printing of this material.

Your Insurance Audit

General Information and Guidelines



Auto-Owners
INSURANCE

LIFE • HOME • CAR • BUSINESS

What is an Insurance Audit?

Insurance audits are typically performed on commercial insurance policies providing auto, general liability, garage liability, umbrella and workers' compensation coverages. When these policies are issued, you are asked to pay an estimated premium. Estimated premiums are based on the nature of your business and your estimate of exposures (*i.e. payroll, sales, etc.*) for the policy period.

Once your policy expires, we conduct an audit to collect information on actual exposures and operations and then determine the final premium.

When and How will the Audit be Done?

We will collect audit information from you shortly after your policy expires.

Smaller, less complex policies may only require that you assemble and send the necessary information to us or have the information available when a telephone auditor calls.

Larger and more complicated policies are handled by a field auditor, who will schedule an appointment and visit your business.

If you must change or cancel a scheduled appointment, please contact the auditor as far in advance as you can. It is best to schedule and complete this audit within 30 days from your policy expiration date.

It is important for the auditor to ask questions about your operations. If you cannot be present to answer questions, someone familiar with the specifics of your entire business operations should be available.

If you direct us to your accountant, we will obtain as much information as possible from them and contact you with additional questions.

Most of our audits only take a half hour or less, but audits of larger policies may take longer. Though the auditor will have a number of questions, you will not have to be directly involved during the entire audit if adequate records are available.

What Records are Needed?

Good record keeping is important to the audit process. Accurate records provide and confirm information, save time and can minimize your insurance costs. The premium auditor will let you know which of the following records will be needed for your audit when the appointment is made.

- **Payroll Records:** These include payroll journal and summary, federal tax reports (*941s*), state unemployment reports and individual earnings records. Totals should be kept for overtime when applicable.
- **Employee Records:** These include the number of employees and hours, days or weeks worked annually.
- **Sales Journal:** This includes all goods or products sold, rented and/or distributed as well as service, repair and installation. Sales or excise taxes collected separately and submitted to the government need to be identified in order to be excluded.
- **Check Register/Cash Disbursements:** These show payments to subcontractors, material costs and payments for casual labor.
- **Certificates of Insurance:** These show the subcontractors used during the policy period for construction, erection and/or repair for general liability and workers' compensation insurance coverages.
- **Income Statements:** These include subcontracted labor costs and payroll amounts.

How can you save money?*

There are several ways you can save on premium dollars depending on the type of business and coverages you have. Not all of the following may apply to your particular business.

- **Payroll Division:** A single employee's payroll can be divided except when the employee works in a clerical, sales, drafting or driving position. Proper records must be kept in dollar

amounts that reflect work actually performed before a breakdown can be applied. Without adequate records, the entire payroll for the employee must be placed in the highest rated classification.

- **Employee Tips:** Tips declared by employees may be excluded from their gross payroll only if separately identified.
- **Certificates of Insurance:** Have certificates available for the audit at your premises (*or your accountant's*) to ensure that charges are not made unnecessarily. Certificates must cover the period when the subcontractor worked for you. This may require certificates covering two different policy terms for the subcontractor in some cases.
- **Drivers (for general liability coverage):** Employees with the sole responsibility of driving may often be excluded from chargeable payroll if their wages are shown separately. However, employees who perform other duties aside from driving must be placed in the highest-rated class describing their duties.
- **Certificates of Insurance:** These show the subcontractors used during the policy period for construction, erection and/or repair for general liability and workers' compensation insurance coverages.
- **Cost of Hire:** Commonly used on commercial automobile policies as a premium basis for hired auto coverage. This includes automobiles and trailers used under contract or loaned to you, which may include rental units, as well as hauling you subcontract.

*Your business is unique. If you have questions about how your specific circumstances will affect savings, please contact your independent agent representing Auto-Owners Insurance.