

News release

Engineering

19 March 2008

76% OF BROKERS UNAWARE OF LEGAL REQUIREMENT DATE

Allianz Engineering is providing information to brokers regarding The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations, following a survey conducted by the insurer which found that 76 per cent of brokers are unaware that the regulations come into force on 6 April 2008.

The survey* also found that:

- 49 per cent of brokers are completely unaware of the regulations
- 75 per cent are unaware of the requirements for their clients
- 78 per cent are unaware of the consequences of non-compliance
- 94 per cent have not received enquiries from clients about the new legislation

In addition, recent press articles suggest that as many as one in three businesses are currently unaware of the regulations and the requirements that it imposes, despite facing a penalty charge of up to £5000 if the regulations are breached.

Neil Clutterbuck, director, Allianz Engineering, said:

“Brokers will be affording their clients a valuable service by keeping them informed of this legislation. No one wants to face a £5000 fine simply because they are unaware. Allianz Engineering has established a ‘one-stop-shop’ for our broker partners with the ability to place insurance, health & safety inspection and energy efficiency certification services all with one insurer.

“We estimate that the market potential for the legally required certificates could be as much as £275m pa, so in addition to offering information on the legislation, brokers are now presented with a growth opportunity. With the help of Allianz Engineering, they can offer a value added service by placing contracts for the provision of energy assessments as they already do for health and safety inspections.”

The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulation comes into effect on 6 April 2008 and requires every commercial property owner, landlord or manager to provide an energy performance certificate on construction, sale or lease of a commercial property. Public buildings are also required to display energy certificates from October 2008, in a place clearly visible to the public. Measures are also being introduced to ensure that air-conditioning systems are regularly inspected.

For further information, please visit www.allianzengineering.co.uk/energy
ENDS.

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Notes to Editors:

1. Allianz Insurance Plc is one of the UK's leading general insurers and part of the Global Allianz Group, one of the world's leading financial services providers with a presence in more than 70 countries employing approximately 168,000 people world-wide. The company is able to offer customers a wide range of products including home, motor and a comprehensive portfolio of commercial insurance solutions.
2. *Survey carried out by Allianz Insurance plc amongst 305 broker firms.