



Business Combined

General introduction section

Contents of this section

Welcome to AXA	3
Your policy	4
Meanings of defined terms	5
Policy conditions	6
Making a complaint	10

Welcome to AXA

Thank you for choosing AXA. Please read carefully all documents that **we** have provided and keep them in a safe place.

If **you** have any questions, need anything explaining or believe this contract does not meet **your** needs, please contact **us** or **your** insurance adviser.

Your policy

Your policy is divided into a number of sections. The sections of cover that apply in addition to the General introduction section are shown under **your** cover summary which is in the schedule. **Your** cover summary contains a list of sections available, but only those shown as 'insured' apply. Where a section does not apply **your** cover summary will state that it is 'not insured' and this section will not be included within the **policy**.

Your policy is a contract of insurance between **you** and **us** and **you** have a duty to make a fair presentation of the risk to **us** in accordance with the law.

The **policy** describes the cover for which **we** have accepted **your** premium. The **policy** wording, schedule and any endorsements must be read together.

Your policy is renewable provided **we** agree to accept **your** premium for any subsequent **period of insurance**. A new schedule will be issued for each **period of insurance** showing any changes to **your** cover.

Throughout **your policy**, **we** use defined terms. Defined terms are used to explain what a word means and are highlighted in bold blue print.

Headings have been used for **your** guidance to help **you** understand the cover provided. The headings do not form part of the contract.

Under the heading 'What is covered' **we** give information on the insurance provided. This must be read with 'What is not covered', the Policy conditions and any conditions of cover that are applied to each section.

Under the heading 'What is not covered' **we** draw **your** attention to what is excluded from **your policy**.

Making a claim

If **you** need to make a claim please first check **your policy** to make sure **you** are covered. **You** must then follow the Claims notification condition and Claims procedures condition of pages 6 and 7 of this section, headed Policy conditions.

Please contact **your** insurance adviser who will help **us** deal with **your** claim.

Making a complaint

If **you** are not happy with the way a claim or any other matter has been dealt with, please read 'Making a complaint' on page 10 of this section.

Meanings of defined terms

These meanings apply throughout **your policy**. If a word or phrase has a defined meaning it will be highlighted in bold blue print and will have the same meaning wherever it is used. There may be additional defined meanings in each section.

Business

Business shown in **your** schedule.

Excess

First amount of any claim or claims for which **you** are responsible.

Period of insurance

Period from the start date to the expiry date of **your** cover shown in **your** schedule.

Policy

Policy, schedule and any endorsements attached or issued.

Policy territories

Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.

We/us/our

AXA Insurance UK plc.

You/your/yourself

Person(s), firm, company or organisation shown in your schedule as the insured.

Policy conditions

You must comply with the following conditions to have the full protection of **your policy**. If **you** do not comply then **we** may at **our** option take one or more of the following actions

- 1 Cancel **your policy**
- 2 Declare **your policy** void (treating **your policy** as if it had never existed)
- 3 Change the terms of **your policy**
- 4 Refuse to deal with all or part of any claim or reduce the amount of any claim payments.

Applicable law condition

You and **we** can choose the law which applies to this **policy**. **We** propose that the Law of England and Wales apply. Unless **we** and **you** agree otherwise, the Law of England and Wales will apply to this **policy**.

Cancellation condition

- 1 **You** may cancel **your policy** within 14 days of receiving **your policy** in the first **period of insurance** if for any reason **you** are dissatisfied or the **policy** does not meet **your** requirements.
- 2 **You** may cancel **your policy** at any time if the **business** is sold by **you** or **you** cease trading or **you** sell all the property insured shown in **your** schedule.
- 3 **We** can cancel **your policy**
 - a at any time by giving 30 days written notice to **your** last known address
 - b immediately, without giving **you** notice if the premium has not been paid to **us**.

Where **your policy** is cancelled in accordance with any of the above provisions, **we** will refund part of the premium paid, proportionate to the unexpired **period of insurance** following cancellation, provided that no claim has been paid or is outstanding in the current **period of insurance**.

Cancellation of **your policy** will not affect any claims or rights **you** or **we** may have before the date of cancellation.

We do not have to offer renewal of **your policy** and cover will cease on the expiry date.

Change in risk condition

You must tell **us** as soon as possible during the **period of insurance** of any change

- 1 to the **business**
- 2 in the person, firm, company or organisation shown in **your** schedule as The insured
- 3 to the information **you** provided to **us** previously or any new information that increases the risk of loss as insured under any section of **your policy**.

Your policy will come to an end from the date of the change unless **we** agree in writing to accept an alteration.

We do not have to accept any request to vary **your policy**. If **you** wish to make any alteration to **your policy** **you** must disclose any change to the information **you** previously provided or any new information that could affect this insurance. If **we** accept any variation to **your policy**, an increase in the premium or different terms or conditions of cover may be required by **us**.

Claims notification condition

You must

- 1 as soon as practical
 - a give **us** notice of any circumstances which might lead to a claim under **your policy**
 - b give **us** all the information **we** request
- 2 immediately
 - a on receipt send **us** every letter, court order, summons or other legal document served upon **you**
 - b tell **us** about any prosecution, inquest or fatal accident inquiry or dispute for referral to adjudication or court proceedings in connection with any potential claim under **your policy**
 - c notify the police of any loss or damage that has been caused by malicious persons, thieves, rioters, strikers or vandals.

We will not pay **your** claim where **you** have not complied with this condition.

Claims procedures condition

- 1 **You** must take or allow others to take practical steps to prevent further injury, loss or damage, recover property lost and otherwise minimise the claim.
- 2 At **your** expense **you** must provide **us** with
 - a full details in writing of any injury, loss or damage and any further information or declaration **we** may reasonably require
 - b any assistance to enable **us** to settle or defend a claim
 - c details of any other relevant insurances.
- 3 **You** may not accept, negotiate, pay, settle, admit or repudiate any claim without **our** written consent.
- 4 Following a claim **you** must allow **us** or anyone authorised by **us**
 - a access to premises
 - b to take possession of, or request delivery to **us** of any property insured.
- 5 **You** may not abandon any property to **us**.
- 6 **We** will be allowed complete control of any proceedings and settlement of the claim.

We will not pay **your** claim where **you** have not complied with this condition.

Fair presentation of risk condition

You have a duty to make a fair presentation of the risk which **you** wish to insure. This applies prior to the start of **your policy**, if any variation is required during the **period of insurance** and prior to each renewal. If **you** do not comply with this condition then

- 1 if the failure to make a fair presentation of the risk is deliberate or reckless **we** can elect to make **your policy** void and keep the premium. This means treating the **policy** as if it had not existed and that **we** will not return **your** premiums, or
- 2 if the failure to make a fair presentation of the risk is not deliberate or reckless and **we** would not have provided cover had **you** made a fair presentation, then **we** can elect to make **your policy** void and return **your** premium or

- 3 if the failure to make a fair presentation of the risk is not deliberate or reckless and **we** would have issued cover on different terms had **you** made a fair presentation of the risk then **we** can:

- a reduce proportionately any amount paid or payable in respect of a claim under **your policy** using the following formula. **We** will divide the premium actually charged by the premium which **we** would have charged had **you** made a fair presentation and calculate this as a percentage. The same percentage figure will be applied to the full amount of the claim to arrive at the proportion of the claim to be paid or payable; and/or
- b treat **your policy** as if it had included the different terms (other than payment of the premium) that **we** would have imposed had **you** made a fair presentation.

- 4 Where **we** elect to apply one of the above then

- a if **we** elect to make **your policy** void, this will be from the start of the **policy**, or the date of variation or from the date of renewal
- b **we** will apply the formula calculated by reference to the premium that would have been charged to claims from the start of the **policy**, or the date of variation or from the date of renewal
- c **we** will treat the **policy** as having different terms imposed from the start of the **policy**, or the date of variation or from the date of renewal

depending on when the failure to make a fair presentation occurs.

Fraud condition

You and anyone acting for **you** must not act in a fraudulent way.

If **you** or anyone acting for **you**:

- 1 knowingly makes a fraudulent or exaggerated claim under **your policy**;
- 2 knowingly makes a false statement in support of a claim (whether or not the claim itself is genuine); or
- 3 knowingly submit a false or forged document in support of a claim (whether or not the claim itself is genuine)

we will:

- a** refuse to pay the claim;
- b** declare the **policy** void from the date of the fraudulent act without any refund of premiums.

We may also inform the police of the circumstances.

Instalments condition

If **you** fail to pay a premium instalment to **us** on the date due, this will result in **your policy** being cancelled from the date the missed instalment was due. **You** will not be entitled to any return of premium where this happens.

If a claim has been made or there has been any incident likely to lead to a claim during the current **period of insurance** the annual premium remains due in full.

Other insurance condition

If a claim is made under **your policy** and there is other insurance cover for which **you** are, or would be but for this **policy**, entitled to have a claim paid under the other insurance, **we** will at **our** option, either pay

- 1** a proportionate share of the claim
- or
- 2** an amount beyond that which is or would be payable under the other insurance.

Policy administration fees condition

We may charge **you** an administration fee if **we**

- 1** make any changes to **your policy** on **your** behalf
- 2** agree to cancel **your policy**, or
- 3** are requested to print and re-send **your policy** documents to **you**.

We will not make a charge without informing **you**.

Reasonable care condition

You must take reasonable steps to

- 1** prevent or protect against injury, loss or damage

- 2** keep **your** premises, machinery, plant and equipment and all other property insured in good condition and in full working order
- 3** remedy any defect or any danger that becomes apparent, as soon as possible.

If required by **us**, **you** must allow access to **your** premises and/or activities of **your business** to carry out inspection or survey. **You** must complete any risk improvements that **we** ask for, within a reasonable period of time advised by **us**.

We will not pay **your** claim where **you** have not complied with this condition.

Renewal term agreement condition

If **your** schedule shows that a renewal term agreement is operative, certain terms and conditions have been agreed by **you** and **us** that regulate the annual premium at which **we** will offer renewal. The agreement is included as part of the insurance contract and if **we** offer renewal in accordance with the agreement **you** agree that **your policy** will be renewed each year up to the expiry date of the agreement shown in **your** schedule.

Sanctions condition

This contract of insurance is subject to sanction, prohibition or restriction under United Nations resolutions. It is a condition of **your policy** that **we** will not provide cover, or pay any claim or provide any benefit under **your policy** to the extent that the provision of such cover, payment of such claim or provision of such benefit would expose **us**, or **our** parent, subsidiary or any AXA group member company, to any trade or economic sanctions, or violate any laws or regulations of the United Kingdom, the European Union, the United States of America or any other territory.

Subrogation (our rights) condition

We will be entitled to undertake in **your** name or on **your** behalf

- 1** the defence or settlement of any claim
- 2** steps to enforce rights against any other party before or after payment is made by **us**.

Third party rights condition

This contract is between **you** and **us**. The rights under this contract will not be enforceable by any other party because of the Contract (Rights of Third Parties) Act 1999.

Making a complaint

AXA Insurance aims to provide the highest standard of service to every customer.

If **our** service does not meet **your** expectations **we** want to hear about it so **we** can try to put things right.

All complaints **we** receive are taken seriously. Following the steps below will help **us** understand **your** concerns and give **you** a fair response.

How to make your complaint

The majority of complaints can be resolved quickly and satisfactorily by the department **you** are dealing with. If **your** complaint relates to a claim on **your** policy, please contact the department dealing with **your** claim. If **your** complaint relates to anything else, please contact the agent or AXA office where **your** policy was purchased. Telephone contact is often the most effective way to resolve complaints quickly.

Alternatively, **you** can write to **us** at

AXA Insurance complaints:



AXA Insurance
Commercial complaints
AXA House
4 Parklands
Lostock
Bolton
BL6 4SD

All claims complaints:



Tel: **01204 815359**



Email: **commercial.complaints@axa-insurance.co.uk**

When **you** make contact please tell **us** the following information:

- Name address and postcode, telephone number and e-mail address (if **you** have one)
- **Your** policy and/or claim number, and the type of policy **you** hold
- The name of **your** insurance agent / firm (if applicable)
- The reason for **your** complaint.

Any written correspondence should be headed 'COMPLAINT' and **you** may include copies of supporting material.

Beyond AXA

Should **you** remain dissatisfied following **our** final written response, **you** may be eligible to refer **your** case to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS).

The FOS is an independent body that arbitrates on complaints about general insurance products. The FOS can only consider **your** complaint if **we** have given **you our** final decision.

You have six months from the date of **our** final response to refer **your** complaint to the FOS. This does not affect **your** right to take legal action.

The Financial Ombudsman Service



Financial Ombudsman Service
Exchange Tower
Harbour Exchange Square
London
E14 9SR



Telephone: **0800 023 4567*** or
0300 123 9123**

Fax: **020 7964 1001**



Email: **complaint.info@financial-ombudsman.org.uk**

Website: **www.financial-ombudsman.org.uk**

* free for people phoning from a 'fixed line' (for example, a landline at home)

** free for mobile phone users who pay a monthly charge for calls to numbers starting 01 or 02

Our promise to you

We will

- Acknowledge written complaints promptly.
- Investigate **your** complaint quickly and thoroughly.
- Keep **you** informed of progress of **your** complaint.
- Do everything possible to resolve **your** complaint.
- Learn from **our** mistakes.
- Use the information from complaints to continuously improve **our** service.

Telephone calls may be monitored or recorded.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS)

AXA Insurance UK plc are covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS). **You** may be entitled to compensation in the unlikely event **we** cannot meet **our** obligations to **you**. This depends on the type of insurance, size of the business and the circumstances of the claim. Further information about the compensation scheme arrangements is available from the FSCS (www.fscs.org.uk).

Legal expenses services complaints

If **you** have a complaint about the Legal expenses services **you** should contact Arc Legal Assistance Ltd:

Arc Legal Assistance Ltd	
	Arc Legal Assistance Ltd The Gatehouse, Lodge Park Lodge Lane Colchester Essex CO4 5NE
	Telephone: 01206 615000

You can also refer to the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) if **you** cannot settle **your** complaint with Arc or before they have investigated the complaint if both parties agree.

Arc are also covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

**This document is available in
other formats.**

If you would like a Braille, large print
or audio version, please contact your
insurance adviser.

www.axa.co.uk