



Since our inception, Durham and Bates has been a leader in providing insurance for shipowners, shipbuilders, ship charterers, tug and barge companies, cargo importers and exporters and maritime pilots. Click here for a list of coverage descriptions.

Regional Broker with Global Connections

We are one of the largest marine brokers on the West Coast – our team of eight associates is devoted exclusively to marine insurance. Few insurance brokers have a staff of this size dedicated to the marine industry.

Durham and Bates has time-honored relationships with our insurance carriers. We work very hard to encourage personal connections with all of our Underwriters. They visit us frequently and we make regular trips to Seattle, San Francisco, New York and London in order to maintain our relationships and negotiate renewal terms for our clients.

Claims Expertise

The effectiveness of an insurance policy – and the broker's claims staff – is revealed when a claim actually occurs. Durham and Bates is committed to the prompt payment of our clients' claims.

We believe a fundamental role of a broker is to assist clients with controlling the frequency and severity of losses. Therefore, we maintain an experienced staff dedicated exclusively to managing, adjusting and expediting the prompt payment of claims.

Since casualties, especially marine casualties, occur at all hours, an experienced person at Durham and Bates is on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to provide immediate assistance via our toll-free number 800-929-0171.

Customized Coverages / Risk Analysis

We understand your business and anticipate your needs. We go far beyond just the procurement of insurance for our clients.

Through our Risk Management Analysis and discussions, we will determine the proper design for your insurance program. We will explore risk transfer alternatives and determine if/where self-insurance can be utilized. Your insurance program will be built around a risk management strategy designed and tailored to your operations and financial requirements.

Our Marine Department specializes in:

- Reviewing operations and analyzing exposures
- Ensuring policies appropriately address operations and exposures
- Reviewing client financial objectives and needs
- Suggesting ways to transfer risk
- Providing in-house assistance with claims management and reporting

At Durham and Bates, our business is protecting our clients' ability to do business.





Coverage Descriptions

Builders Risk – Covers real property while being built, renovated, repaired or tested, as well as personal property that will become a permanent part of the vessel.

Cargo – Insures goods, merchandise or commodities of every description which may be carried aboard a vessel, airplane, truck, railcar, or other delivery conveyance.

Charterer's Liabilities – Provides insurance for a time charterer, voyage charterer, a charterer in partnership or space charterer in relation to a charter party of an insured vessel. Charterers' liabilities are the contractual and legal liabilities of the Charterer of a ship. The main risks are: Liability to cargo, Liability to damages to the ship and Costs which have to be made to defend a legal liability claim.

Excess/Bumbershoot Liabilities – Provides higher limits of liability insurance that protect against financial loss resulting from a claim for damages because of bodily injury, death, property damage or some other injury for which the insured is allegedly responsible.

Hull & Machinery – Protects shipowners and others with an interest in vessels, machinery attached to the vessel, drilling rigs and the like against the expenses that might be incurred in repairing or replacing such property if it is damaged, destroyed or lost because of a covered peril.

License Defense – Provides legal defense to licensed pilots in the event of U.S. Coast Guard, National Transportation Safety Board and/or State pilotage proceedings as a result of an occurrence.

Loss of Income – Provides payment for income continuation in the event of an occurrence which results in confiscation, surrender, suspension, revocation or nonrenewal or prevents the use of an Insured's marine license.

Pilot's Legal Liability – Covers liabilities and provides a defense for occurrences which may arise from pilotage of a vessel.

Pollution Liability – Covers owners and operators of vessels for exposures to liability for environmental damage and cleanup costs arising from oil spills or the release of other pollutants.

Protection & Indemnity – Covers liability exposures of vessel owners or operators against damages arising out of liabilities to third parties, including bodily injury or death of crew members, passengers and others.