#### **Building a Solid Surety Relationship**

Increase your bond capacity and strengthen your bond relationship at the same time...

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# Stages of a Lasting Surety Relationship

- Meeting
- Maintaining
- Maturing

## Meeting

#### **Annual Meeting**

• When annual financial statement is available

## **Underwriting Considerations**

- Sound financial statements
- Committed & competent personnel
- Business plan

## **Maintaining the Relationship**

#### **Open & Honest Communication**

- Say what you mean
- Do as you say
- Show results
- No Surprises
- Meet obligations
- Be accountable

## **Timely and Accurate**

#### **Fiscal Year End Financial Statements**

- CPA Prepared Financial Statement
  - % Complete Basis of Accounting
  - "Reviewed" Basis
  - In Compliance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
  - In Compliance with Most Recent FASB Pronouncements
- Includes Work In Progress and Completed Project Schedules
  - Fully Integrated into Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement
  - Underbillings / Overbillings
  - Gross Profit Recognized from Projects in Progress / Completed
- Financial Statement Includes Adequate Footnotes

## **Timely and Accurate**

#### **Interim Financial Statements**

- Internally Prepared Quarterly
- % Complete Basis
- Work In Progress Schedule and Completed Project Schedule Fully Integrated

## **Timely and Accurate**

#### What Your Bonding Company is Looking For...

- Consistent and Conservative Profit Estimates
- Proper Recognition of Change Orders
- Underbillings
- Overbillings
- Contractor's History and Experience

## Role of the Work in Progress Report

- Tracks contractor's work history
- Shows pattern & project management strategies
- Reveals how contractor communicates problems to surety

## **Questions the Surety Will Ask**

#### Are there large costs & earnings in excess of billings?

- Is gross profit holding?
- Has owner failed to pay?
- Are progress billings unapproved?
- Are unapproved change orders included in the costs?
- Has completed job been fully billed?
- If overbilled, is there a corresponding cash balance?

## **Questions the Surety Will Ask**

#### Are profit margins holding?

- Is there a pattern of profit fade?
- Are there adequate job cost procedures?
- Can contractor accurately reevaluate problems?
- Is the contractor withholding information?

## **Earning Trust**

- Provide FYE and internal statements on the % of completion
- Communicate openly
- Provide accurate, detailed & consistent feedback

## Keys to a Solid Surety Relationship

- Commitment
- Trust
- Communication
- Timely reporting
- Teamwork

### **Financial Reports**

#### Represent a contractor's....

- Character
- Management Style
- Commitment to the Surety Relationship

### For More Information...

#### Please contact me at

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