

Beyond Blocks and Bricks

Number One

Ronald J. Hunsicker

Professional Engineer

Masonry Investigations

P. O. Box 6615

Wyomissing, PA 19610-2102

484-332-1164

rjhpe@ptd.net

As Rosanne once said, "Life is uncertain, eat dessert first." Fortunately, most things are more predictable: McDonald's fries, Brett Favre, and insurance.

We purchase insurance policies to avoid risk that would otherwise be our own. In return for a premium, insurance companies accept the risk and agree to compensate us in the event that we make certain claims. If others make claims against us, insurance companies also accept that risk and provide attorneys and defense expenses and compensate those making claims against us.

Whether an insurance company can uphold its part of the bargain depends upon the financial health of the insurance company. As we ask ourselves with each sale, "How will this customer pay me after I transfer these goods to them?" we might also ask, "If I have an insurance claim, will my insurer pony-up?"

We answer questions about our customers by inquiring into their financial health.

David Collings provides a road map for determining the financial health of an insurer in the attached copy of the "Construction" column of the July 2010 issue of "The Construction Specifier," the magazine of The Construction Specifications Institute.