



HOUSEHOLD INVENTORY – Burden of proof in the event of a loss

Mr Bernasconi has the following question:

The insurance company's consultant has asked me a number of times to verify the sum insured by submitting the required inventory form, if I complete this form would I avoid any problems in the event of a loss?

Guerino Inglese, federally certified expert in private insurance, specialising in corporate clients of ASSIDU SA, replies:

Many people are sure that the sum insured in the policy is enough, in the event of a loss, to justify an indemnification request to the insurer.

In fact the sum insured does not conclusively prove:

- the existence of the item,
- the value of the item,
- the event leading to the loss of said item or damage incurred.

The insurer will want to know all these things following the occurrence of a loss event and the burden of proof lies with the insured party.

A regular review of the sum insured is definitely advisable, maybe at specific times (e.g. when the policy is first drawn up, marriage, divorce, purchase of relevant items) and the inventory form does certainly help in that regard; it's a good way of avoiding nasty surprises due to having insufficient cover (see news from 16.10.2013), but it doesn't replace the obligation to prove the three key elements mentioned above.

It is therefore advisable to retain invoices and supporting documentation, maybe even to make copies and keep them separately.

Our consultants will be pleased to assist you and provide you with the best possible advice.