

**RCW 48.111.040 Obligations of contract provider.** (1) Home heating fuel service contracts may not be issued, sold, or offered for sale in this state or sold to consumers in this state unless the contract provider has:

(a) Provided a receipt for, or other written evidence of, the purchase of the home heating fuel service contract to the contract holder; and

(b) Provided a copy of the home heating fuel service contract to the service contract holder within a reasonable period of time from the date of purchase.

(2) In order to assure the faithful performance of a home heating fuel service contract provider's obligations to its contract holders, every home heating fuel service contract provider is responsible for complying with the requirements of one of the following:

(a) Insure all home heating fuel service contracts under a reimbursement insurance policy issued by an insurer holding a certificate of authority from the commissioner; or

(b) (i) Maintain a funded reserve account for its obligations under its home heating service contracts issued and outstanding in this state. The reserves may not be less than forty percent of the gross consideration received, less claims paid, on the sale of the home heating fuel service contract for all in-force contracts. The reserve account is subject to examination and review by the insurance commissioner; and

(ii) Place in trust with the commissioner a financial security deposit, having a value of not less than five percent of the gross consideration received, less claims paid, on the sale of the service contract for all service contracts issued and in force, but not less than ten thousand dollars, consisting of one of the following:

(A) A surety bond issued by an insurer holding a certificate of authority from the commissioner;

(B) Securities of the type eligible for deposit by authorized insurers in this state;

(C) Cash;

(D) An evergreen letter of credit issued by a qualified financial institution;

(E) A pledged certificate of deposit issued by a qualified financial institution; or

(F) Another form of security prescribed by rule by the commissioner.

(3) Home heating fuel service contracts must require the contract provider to permit the contract holder to return the home heating fuel service contract within thirty days of the date the home heating fuel service contract was delivered to the contract holder, or within a longer time period permitted under the home heating fuel service contract. Upon return of the home heating fuel service contract to the contract provider within the applicable period, if no claim has been made under the home heating fuel service contract prior to the return to the contract provider, the home heating fuel service contract is void and the contract provider shall refund to the contract holder, or credit the account of the contract holder with the full purchase price of the home heating fuel service contract. The right to void the home heating fuel service contract provided in this subsection is not transferable and applies only to the original contract purchaser. A ten percent penalty per month must be added to a refund of the purchase price that is not paid or credited within thirty days after

return of the home heating fuel service contract to the contract provider.

(4) Except for home heating fuel service contract providers, persons marketing, selling, or offering to sell home heating service contracts for providers are exempt from the registration requirements of this chapter.

(5) The marketing, sale, offering for sale, issuance, making, proposing to make, and administration of home heating fuel service contracts by contract providers and related contract sellers, administrators, and other persons complying with this chapter are exempt from the other provisions of this title, except chapter 48.04 RCW and as otherwise provided in this chapter. [2006 c 36 s 5.]