



Minimize Risk – Maximize Performance

Risky Words for Design Professionals

Risky Words & Phrases	Interpretation	More Favorable Words or Phrases
Guarantee	Pledge; promise	Shall use professional judgment
Warranty	Assurance; guarantee	Shall use professional judgment
Highest; best; superior	Better than all others	Standard of care
Shall	Absolute; complete without question	Will endeavor, if deemed appropriate
Exact	Precise; absolute; with certainty	Professional judgment; conformed to standards
Inspection	Official examination	Observe; review
Certify	Guarantee	Review
Ensure	Guarantee; make certain	Attempt; professional judgment
Supervise	Responsibility for others	Coordinate; in association with
Control	Responsibility for others	Coordinate; in association with
Approve	Guarantee; endorse	Observe; review
Work product	A physical product	Materials of service; deliverables
Equal to	Identical	Or equivalent
Required	Absolutely necessary	Advisable
Time is of the essence	The most important feature	Services will be timely

Notice to Readers: This is for information purposes only and should be taken, or implied as legal advice. Obtain counsel regarding your specific circumstances.

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T: 626-665-8150



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Subject to client’s approval	Subject to client’s judgment	Subject to client’s reasonable and timely approval
As built	Shows all details	Conformed to construction standards
100% complete	Absolute; without question	Identify what is required; reasonably sufficient for construction, etc.
As required	An obligation	As reasonably required
Necessary	Requirement; obligation	Determined to be reasonably necessary
Thorough	Complete; with perfection	In accordance with applicable professional standards
Safe	Absolutely without danger	In accordance with applicable professional standards
Immediately	Instantly	Without undue delay

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