

**RCW 60.30.020 Retainage bonds—Authorized surety.** (1) In lieu of retainage, a subcontractor, supplier, or contractor may tender, and a contractor or owner must accept, a retainage bond in an amount not to exceed five percent of the moneys earned by the subcontractor, supplier, or contractor.

(2) A subcontractor or contractor must provide a good and sufficient bond from an authorized surety company, conditioned that such person or persons must:

(a) Faithfully perform all the provisions of such contract;

(b) Pay all laborers, mechanics, and subcontractors and material suppliers, and all persons who supply such person or persons, or subcontractors, with provisions and supplies for the carrying on of such work; and

(c) Pay the taxes, increases, and penalties incurred on the project.

(3) The contractor or owner may require that the authorized surety have a minimum A.M. Best financial strength rating so long as that minimum rating does not exceed A-. The contractor may withhold the subcontractor's or supplier's portion of the bond premium, to the extent the contractor provides a retainage bond to obtain a release of the subcontractor's or supplier's retainage.

(4) The contractor or owner must accept a bond meeting the requirements of this section. The subcontractor, supplier, or contractor's bond and any proceeds therefrom are subject to all claims and liens and in the same manner and priority as set forth for retained percentages in the contract and other applicable provisions.

(5) Whenever an owner accepts a bond in lieu of retained funds from a contractor, the contractor must accept like bonds from any subcontractors or suppliers from which the contractor has retained funds. The contractor must then release the funds retained from the subcontractor or supplier to the subcontractor or supplier within 30 days of accepting the bond from the subcontractor or supplier.

(6) This section does not apply to single-family residential construction less than 12 units. [2024 c 101 s 2; 2023 c 373 s 2.]