

CONSTRUCTION

Introduction

The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations (CDM 2015) are the main set of regulations for managing the health, safety and welfare of construction projects.

CDM applies to all building and construction work and includes new build, demolition, refurbishment, extensions, conversions, repair and maintenance.

Duties under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM), apply to all construction projects, including those which are non-notifiable (see below) and those that are domestic projects.

Project Notification

If the project is expected to last longer than 30 working days, or exceed 500 person days and have more than 20 workers working on the project at any one time, the client will need to make sure that the project is notified to the relevant enforcing authority. Projects that fall outside of this criteria are classified as non-notifiable.

The easiest way to notify any project to the HSE is to use the online notification form F10 on their website.

Duty holders

Under CDM 2015, key individuals or organisations are required to undertake very specific responsibilities.

The duty holders and who are they are:

- Clients - Organisations or individuals for whom a construction project is carried out
- Domestic Clients - People who have construction work carried out on their own home, or the home of a family member, that is not done in furtherance of a business, whether for profit or not
- Principal Designers - Designers appointed by the client in projects involving more than one contractor. They can be an organisation or an individual with sufficient knowledge, experience and ability to carry out the role.
- Designers - Those who, as part of a business prepare or modify designs for building, product or prepare or modify designs to system relating to construction work.
- Principal Contractors - Contractors appointed by the client to co-ordinate the construction phase of a project where it involves more than one contractor.
- Contractors - Those who do the actual construction work. They can be either an individual or a company.

- Workers - The people who work for or under the control of contractors on a construction site

Duty holder responsibilities

The responsibilities of each duty holder are clearly laid out and can be summarised as follows

Client

A client must make suitable arrangements for managing a project. These include making sure other duty holders are appointed and that sufficient time and resources are allocated

A Client must also make sure that:

- relevant information is prepared and provided to other duty holders
- the principal designer and principal contractor carry out their duties
- welfare facilities are provided.

Domestic Clients

Domestic clients are in scope of CDM 2015, but their duties as a client are normally transferred to:

- the contractor, on a single contractor project, or
- the principal contractor, on a project involving more than one contractor.

However, the domestic client can choose to have a written agreement the principal designer to carry out the client duties.

Principal Designers

The Principal Designer must Plan, manage, monitor and co-ordinate health and safety in the preconstruction phase of a project. This includes:

- identifying, eliminating or controlling foreseeable risks
- ensuring designers carry out their duties.

Prepare and provide relevant information to other duty holders.

Liaise with the principal contractor to help in the planning, management, monitoring and co-ordination of the construction phase.

Designers

A designer when preparing or modifying designs must eliminate, reduce or control foreseeable risks that may arise during:

- construction
- the maintenance and use of a building once it is built.

Provide information to other members of the project team to help them fulfil their duties.

Principal Contractor

The principal Contractor must plan, manage, monitor and co-ordinate the construction phase of a project. This includes:

- liaising with the client and principal designer
- preparing the construction phase plan
- organising co-operation between contractors and co-ordinating their work.

They must also ensure that:

- suitable site inductions are provided
- reasonable steps are taken to prevent unauthorised access
- workers are consulted and engaged in securing their health and safety
- welfare facilities are provided.

Contractors

A contractor must plan, manage and monitor construction work under their control so that it is carried out without risks to health and safety.

For projects involving more than one contractor, co-ordinate their activities with others in the project team – in particular, comply with directions given to them by the principal designer or principal contractor.

For single-contractor projects, prepare a construction phase plan.

Workers

All workers must

- be consulted about matters which affect their health, safety and welfare
- take care of their own health and safety and that of others who may be affected by their actions
- report anything they see which is likely to endanger either their own or others' health and safety
- co-operate with their employer, fellow workers, contractors and other duty holders.

The Principles of Prevention

These set out the principles duty holders should use in the approach to identifying the measures they should take to control the risks to health & safety in a particular project

(a) avoiding risks

Where possible you should avoid risks all together. Obviously, it is impossible to avoid all risks in the workplace, but those that can be avoided should be. This is the most important principle – the safest risk is the one you don't take.

(b) evaluating the risks which cannot be avoided

Risks that cannot be avoided should be evaluated through a risk assessment to determine the safest method of work.

(c) combating the risks at source

Combating the risk at source is better than managing the risk through warnings or PPE. For example a slippery surface should be treated or replaced as opposed to putting up a warning sign.

(d) adapting the work to the individual

Especially as regards the design of workplaces, the choice of work equipment and the choice of working and production methods, with a view, in particular, to alleviating monotonous work and work at a predetermined work-rate and to reducing their effect on health

(e) adapting to technical progress

Technologic advancement involves solutions to existing problems. When new equipment is developed you should take advantage of any opportunities to make your working processes safer.

(f) replacing the dangerous by the non-dangerous or the less dangerous

If you cannot remove a risk entirely, you may be able to replace it with another less dangerous method to get the work done. For example, you may be able to substitute a toxic substance for one that is less hazardous, or work from height could be carried out from fixed scaffolding rather than a ladder.

(g) developing a coherent overall prevention policy

This policy should cover technology, organisation of work, working conditions, social relationships and the influence of factors relating to the working environment.

(h) giving collective protective measures priority

Collective protective measures should be given priority over individual protective measures. Collective measures give the greatest benefit to protecting the whole workplace, it is important to consider how preventative measures will work together and ensure they are compatible.

(i) giving appropriate instructions to employees

Any control measures you introduce are no use if your workforce do not comply with them, understand them or even know about them. Communication is vital to ensure the successful implementation of health and safety measures to protect everybody.

How CDM 2015 applies to Domestic Clients?

