

Health & Safety

As much information as you need, as much detail as you can stand

Changes in the Regulations

The familiar role of Planning Supervisor has now been abolished and various changes made to the roles and responsibilities of all of the participants in projects.

Clients' Enhanced Duties

CDM 2007 will require Clients (those paying for the works) to carry out the following:

- Ensure that designers, contractors and others are competent and have sufficient resources to carry out appointed duties.
- Ensure arrangements are in place for managing the project so that, as far as reasonably practicable, it can be carried out without risks to the health and safety of any person.
- Ensure that arrangements are in place to provide sufficient and suitable welfare facilities for construction workers.
- Any structure intended for use as a workplace complies with the requirements of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.
- Contractors and designers are supplied with any necessary information for the health and safety of those constructing and/or using the structure.
- Adequate time is given to contractors and designers to prepare for the project and to safely expedite the construction work.
- The Client will be required to sign the new HSE F10 Notification Form indicating that it understands its duties under these regulations

When projects are Notifiable, the Client will be required to carry out the following:

- Appoint a competent Project Coordinator and Principal Contractor and ensure that they are sufficiently resourced to carry out the appointed duties. These appointments should be made in time to allow sufficient planning before construction takes place.
- Supply the Project Coordinator with any relevant health & safety information and ensure that the Coordinator passes relevant information onto designers, the Principal Contractor and other contractors.
- Ensure that construction does not commence until the Principal Contractor has prepared a suitable health and safety plan (with assistance from the Coordinator).
- Ensure that the Principal Contractor provides suitable welfare facilities throughout the project.
- Ensure that the Coordinator is supplied with any relevant information for inclusion in the health and safety file and that the file is available for future construction work.

Client's Agents

A significant change to the regulations is the withdrawal of the role of the Client's Agent. The HSE considered that the appointment of a Client's Agent caused confusion and led some Clients to retain their influence over the project, whilst at the same time shifting their criminal responsibility to another party.

Welfare Facilities

Clients will have a duty to ensure that adequate welfare facilities are provided by the Principal Contractors before constructions commences.

Workplace Standards

Clients have a duty under the new regulations to ensure that any structure being built that contains a 'workplace' conforms to the requirements of the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992.

The Project Coordinator

The Project Coordinator, who must be adequately trained and experienced, will have a general duty under the regulations to advise and assist the Client in complying with these regulations during the project. In particular, the regulations require the Coordinator to assist the Client in complying with its duties in relation to the management of the project and the health and safety plan, and to advise on the appointment of competent persons and their ability to control risks arising from the project.

Notifiable Projects

A project is Notifiable when construction will last for more than 30 days or will involve more than 500 person days. For projects that are non-Notifiable, the appointment of a Project Coordinator is not required. This could lead to the Client managing quite complex construction projects without the assistance of a Project Coordinator.

Conclusion

Although the HSE emphasises that the new regulations do not provide additional Client duties, Clients may not necessarily feel that is the case. The key for Clients to successfully carry out their duties successfully under CDM 2007 will surely lie in the appointment of a competent Project Coordinator.

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