

CDM Co-ordination



Good management of the construction process is essential to avoid accidents and ill health in the industry. We will help you to comply with your obligations under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007.

Background and Aims

It is well documented that the construction industry remains a disproportionately dangerous industry where improvements in health and safety are urgently needed. The original Construction (Design and Management) Regulations were introduced in 1994, making clients' and designers' duties explicit in relation to managing health and safety risks in construction work.

More recently, concerns have been raised that the complexity and the bureaucratic approach of many duty holders frustrated the regulations' underlying health and safety objectives.

The CDM Regulations 2007 revise and consolidate both the CDM Regulations 1994 and the Construction (Health Safety & Welfare) Regulations 1996 into a single regulatory package.

The accompanying 2007 Approved Code of Practice entitled "Managing Health and Safety in Construction" states that the key aim of CDM 2007 is to integrate health and safety into the project and to encourage all parties involved to work together. This is achieved through:

- Improving the planning and management of projects from the start
- Identifying hazards early on so they can be eliminated or reduced
- Targeting effort where it can do the most good in terms of health and safety
- Discouraging unnecessary bureaucracy

We believe that our wealth of experience and expertise in construction health and safety matters allows us to provide a bespoke informed service to clients, designers and principal contractors alike in effectively managing health and safety in construction. We always focus on the specific project in hand and we will not resort to generic approaches to health and safety management.

Implications for the Client

CDM is designed to promote a systematic approach to the management of health and safety in construction. Arguably clients have the most important role in CDM 2007 as they have a substantial influence over how a project is run. As a result of this, clients are accountable for their approach to health and safety. The CDM Regulations require clients to:

- Check competence of all appointees
- Allow sufficient time and resources for all stages of the project
- Ensure there are suitable management arrangements for co-ordinating the work of the project team

In addition, for projects exceeding 30 days and/or 500 man-hours in duration (notifiable project), clients must appoint a CDM Co-ordinator. Clients without construction expertise should rely on the advice of the CDM Co-ordinator. CDM 2007 precludes clients from appointing a client agent to fulfill their obligations.

Further client requirements in respect of notifiable construction projects also include:

- Appointing a Principal Contractor
- Ensuring relevant pre-construction information is passed on to the relevant members of the project team
- Retaining and providing access to the Health and Safety File
- Checking (before construction work starts) that suitable welfare facilities have been provided by the contractor

We aim to provide concise expert advice which will enable our clients to fulfil their CDM obligations. Our CDM Co-ordinators hold qualifications recognised to demonstrate competence to act under the CDM Regulations 2007.

CDM Co-ordination (cont'd)

Our services

Our team of CDM Co-ordinators continue to act for a diverse range of clients across a broad range of industry sectors in CDM matters. Whatever your role or duty under CDM 2007 be it client, designer, contractor or principal contractor, The Vinden Partnership can advise you as to the appropriate action to discharge your duties.

We are also able to prepare seminars or give in-house training on any aspect of CDM to suit your requirements. Please feel free to contact us to discuss your needs.



Summary

CDM Regulations require:

- A realistic project programme with adequate time allowed for planning, preparation and the work itself
- Early appointment of key people, including the CDM Co-ordinator
- Competent dutyholders with sufficient resources to meet their legal obligations
- Early identification and reduction of risks
- Provision of health and safety information from the start of the design phase, through construction and maintenance to eventual demolition so that everyone can fulfill their duties effectively
- Co-operation and communication between dutyholders
- Proportionate effort and resources to be applied to managing health and safety issues

For further information:

If you require further information on any of our services, or if you wish to discuss your requirements with us, please do not hesitate to contact us:

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