

Safety on your Construction Site

A BRIEF GUIDE TO THE CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN & MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 2015

The latest figures show that during the 2016/2017 recording period there were 30 fatal accidents in the construction industry. There were also 64,000 non fatal injuries of which 5,055 resulted in at least seven days off work. Construction, like agriculture, is a dangerous business. The Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2015, known as CDM 2015, are a means of reducing the number and severity of accidents. The regulations impose duties on the various parties involved in creating a building; these duties are mandatory and failure to carry them out could result in a criminal prosecution.

The HSE publication "Need building work done?" (<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg411.htm>) is a simple guide to what you should do and includes the comment: "CDM 2015 is not about creating unnecessary and unhelpful processes and paperwork. It is about choosing the right team and helping them to work together to ensure health and safety."

The regulations detail the variety of roles within a given project. The role specifically relevant to individuals undertaking a building project will be that of the Client. As the Client you need to do the following:-

- Appoint the right people at the right time; this will probably include a principal designer and a principal contractor, their roles are outlined in the HSE guidance.
- Ensure there are arrangements in place for managing and organising the project; in practice the principal designer and the principal contractor will manage the detail of this for you, but you have a responsibility to make sure that this is thorough and ongoing.
- Allow adequate time; we all want the job finished quickly, but rushed work is more likely to be poor quality and unsafe.
- Provide information to your designer and contractor; do not assume that because something is obvious everyone is aware of it, as important as your design brief you need to make everyone aware of potential hazards.
- Communicate with your designer and building contractor; the work will be carried out better and more safely if everyone communicates and cooperates.
- Ensure adequate welfare facilities on site.
- Ensure a construction phase plan is in place; this is an essential part of the contractor's planning and should be in place before work starts.



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- Keep a health and safety file; this document will help you manage the building and manage health and safety in any future work, including maintenance.
- Protect members of the public, including your employees; be particularly aware of the attraction building sites hold for children.
- Ensure workplaces are designed correctly; work with your design team to make sure you meet all the relevant legislation.
- Notify the HSE of your construction project; you need not do this for very small work.

CDM 2015 recognises that you are probably not an expert in construction work and so you are not expected to be involved in the detail of managing or supervising work.

If you are a domestic client and your work is not being done in connection with a business then CDM 2015 automatically transfers your responsibilities to the contractor. As a business project the designer and contractor could undertake most of the above on your behalf. In either case, decisions on who to appoint and how much time, money and resource are made available will have a significant impact on the health, safety and welfare of everyone involved with the work or affected by it.

Acorus can help you meet the requirements of CDM 2015.

- As designers we work to eliminate, reduce or control foreseeable risks that may arise during construction work, or in the use and maintenance of the building once built. This is part of helping you achieve the best possible building to meet your needs.
- As principal designers we plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety during the pre-construction phase as well as coordinating with the contractor who then takes on this responsibility during the construction phase.

Call Acorus to discuss what your responsibilities are under the regulations and how we can help you minimise risk during your construction project to help keep your site safe and make sure you are doing all that you can to reduce accidents.



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