

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE CONSTRUCTION (DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT) REGULATIONS 2015 May 2015

The CDM Regulations place a legal obligation (duties) on all parties of the construction process.

About 50 construction workers die each year in accidents, about 3000 people die each year from previous exposure to asbestos, and there are over 2,000 non-fatal major injuries per year in the construction industry.

The CDM Regulations helps to reduce death and injury. Don't let your job become just another statistic.

Below is a table summarising the duties of the various parties. If the construction work is scheduled to last longer than 30 working days and have more than 20 workers working simultaneously or exceed 500 person days, then Regulation 6 will apply (see below).

Summary of duties

CDM Dutyholders	Summary of role / main duties
Clients - Organisations or individuals for whom construction work is carried out	⇒ Make suitable arrangements for managing a project, including making sure: • other dutyholders are appointed; • sufficient time and resources are allocated. ⇒ Make sure: • relevant information is prepared and provided to other dutyholders (Pre-construction Information); • the principal designer and principal contractor carry out their duties; • welfare facilities are provided. ⇒ Notify the HSE where Regulation 6 applies (or the Principal Designer will often do this on the client's behalf).
Domestic clients - People who have construction work carried out on their own home	⇒ Duties are transferred to: • the contractor, on a single contractor project; • the principal contractor, on a project involving more than one contractor (including sub-contractors); • or the principal designer, only if a written agreement is in place.
Designers - Those who, as part of a business, prepare or modify designs for a building, product or system relating to construction work	⇒ When preparing or modifying designs, to eliminate, reduce or control foreseeable risks that may arise during: • construction; and • 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.

CDM Dutyholders	Summary of role / main duties
Principal Designers - Designers appointed by the client in projects involving more than contractor (including sub-contractors). They can be an organisation or individual with sufficient knowledge, experience and the ability to carry out the role.	⇒ Plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety in the pre-construction phase of a project, including: - identifying, eliminating or controlling foreseeable risks; - ensuring designers carry out their duties. ⇒ Prepare and provide relevant information to other dutyholders (Pre-construction information). ⇒ Liaise with the principal contractor to help in the planning, management, monitoring and coordination of the construction phase; ⇒ Notify the HSE where Regulation 6 applies (if requested by the client).
Principal Contractors - Contractors appointed by the client to coordinate the construction phase of a project where it involves more than one contractor	⇒ Plan, manage, monitor and coordinate the construction phase of a project, including: - liaising with the client and principal designer; - preparing the construction phase plan; - organising cooperation between contractors and coordinating their work. ⇒ Ensure: - suitable site inductions are provided; - reasonable steps are taken to prevent unauthorised access; - workers are consulted and engaged in securing their health and safety; and - welfare facilities are provided.
Contractors - Those who do the actual construction work	⇒ 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 coordinate 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.

If you think that the CDM regulations apply, then contact me and I will guide the parties through the process.

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