

CDM – Is it doing the job?

Tony Mitchell, HSE

Key points

- ▶ HSE believe that in the two years since CDM 2015 was launched, there have been vast improvements across the construction industry.
- ▶ The introduction of additional responsibilities and accountability for designers , who are now required to consider how their buildings can be safely built and maintained - and adapt their designs accordingly - should lead to greater worker safety in the long run.
- ▶ The WWT campaign highlights that for every construction worker killed, 100 more will die through work-related illnesses. Long latency illnesses such as those caused by asbestos and silica have yet to peak. Controls must continue to be put in place and managed to protect today's workers from harmful substances to ensure they do not suffer a similar fate in 20-30 years' time.
- ▶ The Regulations set the standards to be achieved and provide a framework but do not dictate the process. The question should be "What is the best system for managing my business to meet the requirements of legislation?" Tony clarified that the Regulations apply to all construction work including, for example, decoration and cleaning of windows with pressure washers.
- ▶ The Client now needs to be more specific as to his requirements and also to ask the contractors what arrangements are in place to protect workers and to make sure the contractors' Construction Phase Plan is in place prior to commencement of work.
- ▶ Remember: The Client (an organisation or an individual) needs to know they have responsibilities under the Regulations and be aware that they are ultimately accountable for any dereliction of duty, even if they have appointed an agent to act on their behalf. Ignorance is not a defence.



Managing Contractors - Questionnaire / self-assessment

Based on HSE – HSG 159



1. We always know **who's on site**.
2. There has never been a **major incident or accident involving contractors** on site.
3. We assess **contractor's competence** in health, safety, environment / risk & check for evidence before they do work for us.
4. We look into **contractors' procedures** for health, safety, environment / risk to make sure they can fit in with ours.
5. We ensure **hazards are identified and risks are assessed** at each stage and the job is planned.
6. We **inform them of the hazards on the site** & of our emergency procedures before they start.
7. We keep **track of their progress** until the job finishes.
8. **After the job** we talk to the contractor about the work, including health, safety, environment / risk. If necessary we keep records of these **reviews**.

 Birmingham Health, Safety & Environment Association		
Managing Contractors – questionnaire/self-assessment Based on Managing contractors – A guide for employers (HSG 159)		
Company:	Site/Location:	Copies to:
Questionnaire completed by:	Position/Title:	
<p>The questions below should help you identify the main strengths, weaknesses and needs/opportunities for improvement in <i>your arrangements</i> for managing contractors. Completing this questionnaire/self-assessment and acting on the results could be an important step to ensure that you have good systems and controls in place which will avoid serious injury, loss or damage in your business.</p> <p>Think about your current practices for managing contractors. Choose the response that most closely matches what you do now. Put down what actually happens, not what you think should happen. If necessary use a separate sheet to make any notes.</p> <p>If asked, do you have the evidence to back up your answers?</p>		
1. We always know who's on site. a. yes <input type="checkbox"/> b. most of the time <input type="checkbox"/> c. occasionally <input type="checkbox"/>	5. We ensure hazards are identified and risks are assessed at each stage and the job is planned. a. always <input type="checkbox"/> b. some of the time <input type="checkbox"/> c. it's been known to happen <input type="checkbox"/>	
2. There has never been a major incident or accident involving contractors on site. a. true <input type="checkbox"/> b. don't know <input type="checkbox"/> c. false <input type="checkbox"/>	6. We inform them of the hazards on the site & of our emergency procedures before they start. a. without fail <input type="checkbox"/> b. usually <input type="checkbox"/> c. rarely <input type="checkbox"/>	
3. We assess contractor's competence in health, safety, environment / risk & check for evidence before they do work for us. a. always <input type="checkbox"/> b. usually <input type="checkbox"/> c. sort of <input type="checkbox"/>	7. We keep track of their progress until the job finishes. a. always <input type="checkbox"/> b. sometimes <input type="checkbox"/> c. rarely <input type="checkbox"/>	
4. We look into contractors' procedures for health, safety, environment / risk to make sure they can fit in with ours. a. always <input type="checkbox"/> b. usually <input type="checkbox"/> c. sort of <input type="checkbox"/>	8. After the job we talk to the contractor about the work, including health, safety, environment / risk. If necessary we keep records of these reviews. a. always <input type="checkbox"/> b. when possible <input type="checkbox"/> c. no, hardly ever <input type="checkbox"/>	
Scoring - Add your scores: a = 8; b = 5; c = 1		Total score
56 – 64 Very effective You are doing well. Identify what you might improve and do it. <i>Share your approach with others</i>	35 – 55 Need to improve In theory, you are halfway there. You still need to develop procedures in some areas. <i>Learn from others</i>	8 – 34 Need to start You have probably been very honest. Perhaps the questions have helped you to identify some shortcomings. <i>Learn from others</i>