

Introduction

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM) apply to construction work in Great Britain as defined. CDM is intended to protect the health and safety of people working in construction and others who may be affected by their activities.

The CDM Regulations place specific duties upon clients, principal designers and designers, principal contractors and contractors to develop their approach to health and safety so that it is considered and then co-ordinated and managed effectively throughout all stages of a construction project.

These stages progress from conception, design and planning through to the execution of works on-site and subsequent maintenance and repair, even to final demolition and removal. The CDM Regulations are part of a continuing development of health and safety legislation and bring together several concepts.

1. Risk assessment.
2. Competence and adequate resources.
3. Co-operation and co-ordination.
4. Information.

ABCA Systems Group Ltd. accepts these concepts, as part of its overall approach to health, safety and welfare and will therefore comply with the regulations as they apply to our undertaking.

Policy

It is our policy as the client to do the following.

- Make suitable arrangements for managing construction projects including the allocation of sufficient time and other resources.
- Make timely appointments of competent (that is those with the necessary skills, knowledge and experience) and adequately resourced principal designers and principal contractors and other appointees.
- Where organisations are appointed, ensure they have the necessary organisational capability.
- Satisfy ourselves that the designers and contractors we engage are competent and adequately resourced.
- Provide relevant health and safety information about existing structures and the site.
- Allow sufficient time for the design and construction work to be carried out properly.
- Ensure that construction work starts only when there is a suitably developed construction phase health and safety plan.
- ensure adequate welfare facilities are present on site before work commences.
- Ensure that projects are notified to the HSE as necessary.
- Ensure that the project health and safety file is available for any future construction work, and for handing on to a new owner.

Contractors Duties

A contractor is anyone who directly employs or engages construction workers or manages construction work. Contractors include sub-contractors, any individual self-employed worker or business that carries out, manages or controls construction work. They must have the skills, knowledge, experience and, where relevant, the organisational capability to carry out the work safely and without risk to health.

Contractors and the workers under their control are most at risk of injury and ill health from construction work. Contractors therefore have an important role in planning, managing and monitoring their work to ensure any risks are controlled.

As Contractors we will:

- make sure the client is aware of the client duties under CDM 2015 before any work starts
- plan, manage and monitor all work carried out by themselves and their workers, considering the risks to anyone who might be affected by it (including members of the public) and the measures needed to protect them
- check that all workers they employ or appoint have the skills, knowledge, training and experience to carry out the work, or are in the process of obtaining them
- make sure that all workers under their control have a suitable, site-specific induction, unless this has already been provided by the principal contractor
- provide appropriate supervision, information and instructions to workers under their control
- ensure they do not start work on site unless reasonable steps have been taken to prevent unauthorised access
- ensure suitable welfare facilities are provided from the start for workers under their control, and maintain them throughout the work

In addition to the above responsibilities, contractors working on projects involving more than one contractor must:

- coordinate their work with the work of others in the project team
- comply with directions given by the principal designer or principal contractor
- comply with parts of the construction phase plan PDF relevant to their work

Where a contractor is the only contractor working on a project, they must ensure a construction phase plan PDF is drawn up before setting up the site.

When working as the only contractor for a domestic client, the contractor takes on the client duties, as well as their own as contractor. However, this should involve them doing no more than they will normally do to comply with health and safety law.

Where a domestic project involves more than one contractor, the principal contractor normally takes on the client duties and the contractor will work to the principal contractor as 'client'. If the domestic client does not appoint a principal contractor, the role of the principal contractor must be carried out by the contractor as principal contractor and the client duties must be carried out by the contractor in control of the construction phase and the client duties must be carried out by the contractor as principal contractor. Alternatively, the domestic client can ask the principal designer to take on the client duties (although this must be confirmed in a written agreement) and the contractor must work to them as 'client' under CDM 2015.