
CONSTRUCTION INFONET - ISSUE 03.06

NEWS AND INITIATIVES

New CDM Regulations planned for Spring 2007

HSE has announced that the revised Construction (Design and Management) (CDM) Regulations are scheduled to be implemented in Spring 2007. The Regulations will revise and bring together provisions of the existing CDM Regulations 1994 and Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996 into a single package. See [press release](#).

The new regulations are due to be supported by an Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) and industry-produced guidance. HSE intends to make a final draft of the ACoP available 3 months in advance of the Regulations coming into force. In the meantime HSE will be working with the industry to co-ordinate production of industry-specific guidance.

Fragile roof safety alerts available on HSE website

On average, one person dies each month at work after falling through a fragile roof or fragile rooflight. Many others suffer permanent disabling injury. These accidents usually occur on roofs of factories, warehouses and farm buildings. Contractors and building owners or occupiers have joint legal responsibility to ensure that construction, repair or cleaning of buildings is planned properly, and carried out safely. See [Use of contractors](#): A joint responsibility INDG368.

HSE has published [Fragile roof safety alerts](#) for building owners and occupiers and for builders. These highlight the risk and practical controls required. The sequence of recent photographs below show unsafe working and illustrate key points about falls from height:

- Fragile roofs and rooflights account for some 25% of fall from height deaths in construction;
- Ladders and roofs or other building edges account for around a further 50% of such deaths;
- Clients have responsibilities to manage the work of contractors in a non-CDM context;
- Refurbishment work on existing buildings accounts for the largest proportion of fatal falls.



Advance notice of falls from height initiatives May - June 2006

The HSE wide [falls from height](#) campaign continues in construction with project visits and other initiatives during May and June 2007. These will include: head office and site visits to building maintenance contractors; Safety and Health Awareness Days and seminars; HSE stands at Interbuild and SED exhibitions; follow up work on all major injury accidents arising from falls from height and; other targeted visits, e.g. at [Fit-out](#) stage.

Early interventions on major projects and work with major multi-site dutyholders will also continue throughout 2007 supplemented by more proactive work in the housebuilding sector. Further details will follow in coming months.

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Some recent court cases

[Case 1](#) - Contractor fined £14,000 plus costs of £6,000 after a workman was injured when he fell 5m through a mezzanine floor under construction.

[Case 2](#) - Company fined £13,000 after an employee was injured when he fell from a stepladder.

The HSE decision to start legal proceedings is not taken lightly. Before any prosecution is commenced, information obtained during the investigation is carefully assessed against a test established by the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) - [Code for Crown Prosecutors](#). The test is in two stages which are known as the evidential and public interest stages. [HSE procedures](#) concerning the approval of legal proceedings are open and published on the HSE website.

Free seminar for property developers

Property developers are being invited to a [free half-day training event](#). This aims to provide construction clients with an understanding of CDM and other duties that apply to clients and will take place on Monday 20 March 2006, from 10.30-13.00 hrs in the HSE London office at Southwark Bridge. To book a place contact Kokhab Rafi or Pat Osayande on 020 7556 2100, or email: kokhab.rafi@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Selection of designers and contractors under CDM

[Research Report 422](#): "Developing guidelines for the selection of designers and contractors under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994" was published on 20 January 2006. This describes a study into application of the regulations, which require contractors, designers and co-ordinators to be competent and adequately resourced.

This HSE funded study collates background data, details of existing competency assessment schemes, and the views of industry. It proposes a standardised approach so as to avoid uncertainty in the definition of competence and resource, and also promotes a means of avoiding unnecessary repetition in requests for demonstration of competence.

Future issues of Construction Infonet

Construction Infonet has now been issued by the HSE Construction Division London East and South East for nearly 3 years. We are grateful for the feedback received which is usually very positive and supportive. Recipients recognise the value of regular targeted information delivered by email to desktops.

It has been decided that *Construction Infonet* will now be made available on a UK wide basis and accessible through the HSE website. These changes will take place in the coming months. Existing recipients should notice no real difference, and we intend to provide the same quality of information.

I hope you find this information helpful.

Philip Poynter

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