




Wilkins Safety Group

Health & Safety Consultants and CDM Specialists

Contractors are you ready for CDM 2015?



For building contractors



The building industry has been well aware that the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations are to be overhauled in April 2015

Although the 2007 regulations are relatively well regarded, a government consultation found that:

‘There has been significant improvement in the industry’s performance on health and safety over recent years. However, it remains one of the highest risk industry sectors in which to work – with unacceptable standards, particularly on smaller sites....’

As a result many of the proposed changes for 2015 are **targeted for the smaller end of the market and domestic projects.**

Domestic projects will be included from 6th April 2015

The 2015 update to the CDM Regulations will see domestic construction projects that involve more than one contractor being subject to the same rules as larger, commercial equivalents. The only noticeable difference between the commercial and domestic requirements will be the way roles are assigned.

Under CDM 2015, home-owners will not be expected to assume the newly created role of Principal Designer (which replaces the former CDM Co-ordinator). Instead these duties will be passed on to the principal designer or contractor, obliging them to carry out the associated responsibilities.

By including domestic projects in the CDM 2015 Regulations, the HSE expects to capture an additional 1 million construction projects each year.

Issues Contractors need to address

As mentioned above, the role of CDM Co-ordinator is being replaced with the new Principal Designer (PD) designation. Although there will be very little difference in the actual duties associated with the role, the idea is that the PD will be able to influence the early stages of any project as designs are first being drawn up.

Contractors will need to ensure that they fully understand their new responsibilities under the CDM 2015 regime before taking on any projects after the 6th of April 2015.

Confusion among the Industry - April could come as a nasty shock!

Despite the new CDM regulations going live in just two months, small builders may still be faced with confusion.

- The exact definition of 'more than one contractor' for a project remains a little vague for the Industry – does that mean two employees working on site, or representatives from two firms doing different tasks for instance.

Similarly,

- What paperwork will be required to prove that projects are being operated according to CDM 2015?
- What will appointment documents and contracts need to contain to meet the prescribed standards?

For larger construction firms many of these questions are academic, but for smaller builders who have never been bound by the regulations before, April could come as quite a shock.

The BIG! Question is:

Are you prepared?

If you are unsure of the answers to the questions posed in this leaflet, please ask Jon Wilkins of the Wilkins Safety Group on 01458 253682 or jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk

CDM 2015 is a positive move towards making the construction industry even safer for workers, but the short implementation time frames could place small builders at a disadvantage later this year.

Right now the best thing you can do to prepare is to familiarise yourself with the guidance. Also it would be wise to seek professional guidance from an expert such as The Wilkins Safety Group who can help implement the organisational changes needed to fit the CDM 2015 regulations.

Are you interested in CDM Support? Your next step:

So, when you're ready to appoint The Wilkins Safety Group as your CDM Support Services provider, or indeed, if you need immediate cover – get the ball rolling & call 01458 253682 or Email: jon@wilkinssafety.co.uk