

# CDM revisions should make health and safety simpler

The construction industry still accounts for almost a third of all workplace fatalities. Revised legislation has come into force, so there has never been a better time to focus on health and safety training. The revised Construction Design and Management Regulations (CDM) make complying with the legislation much simpler, writes Kevin Fear, Head of Health, Safety and Environment at ConstructionSkills



**C**DM Regulations have a special legal status in that the code of practice is not legally binding, but following it is the best way to ensure that you do comply with the law.

If an employer has not followed the code of practice, then they have to prove that they have complied with the

law in other ways. The key changes were:

- Duty holders cannot accept an appointment unless they are competent to carry it out. They also cannot arrange for anyone to carry out or manage design or construction work, unless that person is competent



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- Duties are grouped together by duty holder, and show whether individual provisions apply to all projects, only notifiable projects, or only non-notifiable projects
- The client's agent and developer provisions are removed. A group of clients involved in a project can now elect one or more of its members to be the only client(s)
- The role of planning supervisor is replaced by 'CDM co-ordinator' which supports and advises the client
- The appointment of a CDM co-ordinator, principal contractor and a written health and safety plan are only required for notifiable projects
- Assessment and demonstration of competence is simplified, with new core criteria and





specific Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) material on individual and corporate competence

For more detail on what this means, ConstructionSkills has produced guidance relevant to your role, be it client, contractor, designer or other construction workers.

It was written in conjunction with industry members and it is designed to be clear and easy-to-understand.

Visit [www.cskills.org/healthsafety/cdmregulations/guidance/index.asp#TopOfPage](http://www.cskills.org/healthsafety/cdmregulations/guidance/index.asp#TopOfPage) for the free-to-download guide.

The HSE has also produced an ACoP to explain the regulations in full -- this can be bought through their website.

Recent research indicated that only 35% of managers have completed health and safety training, and that around the same percentage of all employers spend less than £250 a year on health and safety training.

ConstructionSkills health

and safety courses all cover the updated legislation and are available either on an open basis at one of our training venues throughout the UK or in-company to meet your particular training requirements.

We are the largest provider of Health and Safety training for the construction industry, and all our instructors have extensive industry experience and are experts in their field.

One of the best options is to sign up for Site Safety Plus, a suite of courses that was put together in response to the changing legislation. It is mentioned by name in the code of practice as one way of demonstrating competence.

It is a lifelong approach to health and safety built around and including the industry-respected ConstructionSkills Site Management Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS).

It ensures that employees at all levels have the right training, knowledge and skills to promote best practice in the workplace. For more

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information, speak to the course booking unit on 0844 8440466.

As well as the regulations changing, the Major Contractors Group now requires that all supervisors on their sites have the SSSTS (Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme) so there has never been a better time to get qualified.

ConstructionSkills is working to deliver a safe, professional and fully qualified construction workforce. For further information, visit [www.cskills.org/healthsafety](http://www.cskills.org/healthsafety) or call 0844 844 0046.