

# CDM Regulations 'bedding in well' say HSE



Stephen Williams (pictured right), Head of Construction at the Health and Safety Executive, evaluates the impact of the new CDM Regulations a year on from their inception and outlines new initiatives for closer working relationships with local authority building control and planning departments

**A**lthough it is too early to start formally evaluating the CDM 2007 Regulations, the signs are that they are bedding in well. A sensible approach to health and safety is at the heart of successful implementation, supported by effective worker engagement and integrated project team working.

We know there are still those in the industry who have yet to embrace the principles underpinning CDM 2007, and HSE continues to work hard

with stakeholders to promote these principles, to raise awareness and to convey key messages about practical and proportionate implementation and enforcement of the regulations.

In the year since CDM 2007 was launched, for example, HSE staff and the industry have delivered around 400 briefing events on CDM 2007, reaching an audience in excess of 17,000 professionals.

Significant support to this work is offered by the extensive suite of free industry

**"HSE STAFF AND THE INDUSTRY HAVE DELIVERED AROUND 400 BRIEFING EVENTS ON CDM 2007, REACHING AN AUDIENCE IN EXCESS OF 17,000 PROFESSIONALS"**

guidance – for the full range of CDM dutyholders – available on the Construction Skills website at [www.cskills.org/healthsafety/cdmregulations/](http://www.cskills.org/healthsafety/cdmregulations/); and HSE's additional free, simple guidance available on the HSE website at [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm.htm).

A comprehensive Q&A briefing is also available on the HSE website at [www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/faqindex.htm](http://www.hse.gov.uk/construction/cdm/faqindex.htm)

The need to alleviate administrative burdens on business was one of the key





principles of the CDM 2007 Regulations.

In support of this, HSE has established a Local Authority Construction Engagement (LACE) project team, to help progress the work it is carrying out with Communities and Local Government (CLG) on considering the scope for better integration of the CDM, Building Control and Planning regimes.

The aim of this work is to identify overlapping regulatory requirements and streamline them where possible – with a view to alleviating administrative burdens on those subject to the regulations and improving compliance.

The LACE team is also

reviewing the scope for closer working between HSE and Local Authority Building Control and planning departments to improve construction health and safety standards. A consultant from a building control background is working specifically on this aspect of the project.

We recognise that this work will need wide consultation to take in, for example, the different approaches to building control taken by England and Wales compared with Scotland; and the wider CLG Planning and Building Control reviews and agenda. HSE's Construction Division already liaises regularly with CLG contacts, and the CLG Head of Building Control sits

**“A CONSULTANT FROM A BUILDING CONTROL BACKGROUND IS WORKING SPECIFICALLY ON THIS ASPECT OF THE PROJECT”**

on HSC's Construction Industry Advisory Committee (CONIAC).

As well as discussions with CLG, HSE has been liaising with the Scottish Executive, to explore opportunities for closer integration of the three regulatory regimes and provision of information to dutyholders.

In addition to the above, HSE is developing an electronic construction project notification system and related F10 form. It is expected that this will be go live in June 2008.

HSE hopes shortly to make arrangements with CLG to provide links from the CLG Planning Portal to the electronic F10, and HSE's free CDM 2007 guidance leaflets for clients.

This would help provide a single point for dutyholders to obtain all the relevant information needed for a construction project (e.g. building control, planning and CDM).

