

Designer Competence

1. Qualifications

- a) Have the expected minimum qualification requirements for the design professional been attained?
- b) Has training explicitly included material that equips the designer with the necessary level of understanding of health and safety issues and the legal duties placed on designers?
- c) Have they taken the Managerial and Profession Health and Safety Test, administered by CSkills?

2. Experience

- a) Do designers have sufficient practical experience appropriate to the tasks they undertake? Is there mentoring for inexperienced staff?
- b) Does the practise manage staff development (eg by specifying roles within projects that develop competence)? (T&D plan?)

3. CPD & law

- a) Have the relevant professional body's requirements for CPD been met?
- b) How is CPD accessed? What is the experience of CPD undertaken – qualitative judgement? Is there a health and safety champion in the practise?

4. Practise

- a) What arrangements are in place for informing Clients of their duties under CDM? What do they do when asked for advice on appointment of contractors / consultants?
- b) How does the practise ensure that they receive the appropriate pre-construction information?
- c) How do they promote and achieve good practise in eliminating hazards and reducing risks? Are regular design reviews conducted at key stages of the project?
- d) Are there materials used to assist in the risk management process, eg Red Amber Green lists?
- e) How do they maintain their knowledge of generic construction hazards / methodology and best practise?
- f) How is the relationship with the CDM-C and external designers managed? What makes the relationship succeed / fail? How helpful is the CDM-C to the process? Do they involve the CDM-C in design reviews?
- g) How is the essential information communicated about the risks associated with the design to the end user? Notes on drawings? DRAs?
- h) How do they manage live issues affecting the health and safety of those building / maintaining or using the building that are unresolved? Does the CDM-C contribute to this process? Do they produce a cleaning and maintenance strategy where appropriate?
- i) How is work co-ordinated with other designers? How are the designs of temporary works managed?
- j) Are post project reviews carried out to capture good or bad from completed projects?