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Clients' Commitments Best Practice Guide

Chapter 6: Health & Safety

Written by clients for clients

Health & Safety

Health & Safety is integral to the success of any project, from design and construction to subsequent operation and maintenance.

Early engagement of supply chain partners is critical to enabling good Health & Safety performance and minimising life cycle costs. Three key reasons prevail:

1. Good clients want their staff and suppliers to go home at night
2. There are legal duties that need to be complied with for good reason
3. There are business benefits to proactively manage risk

This guide aims to bring together some of the ideas and language surrounding health and safety in a simple, accessible form. We hope it will help to improve all round understanding of current industry developments.

What does Health & Safety include?

- All projects have a risk register inclusive of health and safety key risks
- Your projects aspire to being injury and accident free
- Occupational health support is available to anyone who works on site
- Utilising guidance such as Strategic Forum for Construction's Health & Safety code and other guidance produced by the CCG
- All professional and site staff are Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) or equivalent qualified
- Demonstrating compliance with client obligations under the CDM (2007) regulations

“Clients and supply chain partners should not be satisfied until accidents and near misses are eliminated from construction sites”

What are the benefits to you?

- Impact on reputation if you have incidents on your project
- Minimisation of risk on and off site
- Enable a safe working environment for all site and project staff
- More productive workforce



How do you do it?

- Make sure that you have a risk register for your project
- Engage your supply chain partners in the development of the risk register so that you have a shared commitment to well being of site operatives
- Upskill your own competence as a construction client
- Ensure supply chain partners have necessary health & safety training and policies in place to meet company, project and employee needs
- Occupational health plans implemented by supply chain partners
- Your project should have on-site trained medical staff and facilities
- Sign up to the Strategic Forum for Construction's Health & Safety code
- Ensure all site operatives have CSCS or equivalent accreditation
- Understand what you are obligated to under the CDM (2007) regulations
- Don't compromise health and safety for other objectives

Supply chain partners should be challenged to demonstrate their:

- Relevant training initiatives are in place
- Evidence of on-site Health & Safety policies
- Evidence of all site operatives having CSCS or equivalent accreditation
- Evidence of managing Occupational Health
- They signed up to Strategic Forum for Construction's Health & Safety code or any other equivalent code(s)? If not, get them to sign up and take the appropriate action
- Working to CCG Key Performance Indicators for Health and Safety
- Supporting industry initiatives such as "Constructing Better Health"

When do you need to do it?

At the start of any project you should have a clear understanding of your obligation as a client towards Health & Safety on your project. You should have your supply chain engaged early in your project decision making process to enable a safe working environment and that the appropriate policies and facilities are in place for your project. This will enable you to manage risk and have safer sites with your supply chain partners.

Take the following action:

- Do have a risk register in place
- Make sure that you have the right policies and on-site facilities in place
- Take time to upskill your own competence as a construction client
- Understand your obligations as outlined under the CDM (2007) regulations
- Seek assurance that all site operatives are CSCS accredited
- Sign the project team up to the Strategic Forum for Construction's Health & Safety or equivalent codes
- Support industry initiatives such as "Constructing Better Health"

Measuring success

Measure the following attributes:

- Training
- Qualifications & Skills
- Employee satisfaction
- Staff Turnover
- Sickness Absence
- Safety
- Working hours
- CSCS accreditation
- Risk register in place
- Strategic Forum for Construction's Health & Safety or equivalent codes signed up to

Further advice & guidance

- Cross reference with Commitment to People client commitments document
- Strategic Forum for Construction H&S code
- Construction Clients' Group H&S guidance and CDM Client self assessment tool
- Respect for People
- CSCS
- CDM (2007) regulations
- HSE
- BERR



Clients' Commitments Action Plan

The Clients' Commitments brings together the 6 key areas vital to you delivering construction projects on time, safely and to budget. They represent the principles which will enable clients to get better value from their construction projects and exceed existing industry best practice. This simple yet effective process should enable all stakeholders in the supply chain to collaborate more effectively in the adoption of this framework for action.

Further details can be found via the websites of the Construction Clients' Group and the Strategic Forum for Construction.

About the Construction Clients' Group

The Construction Clients' Group (CCG) is the only organisation dedicated to supporting both private and public sector customers of construction. CCG supports all clients, regardless of their core business activity, by promoting best practice for construction client that better value for their construction procurement and ultimately an improved built asset. Of equal importance, alongside our best practice role, CCG has a significant client representational role with organisations such as the Strategic Forum for Construction, ConstructionSkills, Health & Safety Executive providing clients with a credible voice with key industry stakeholder groups.

As an organisation we:

- are a voice for all construction clients
- provide opportunities for clients to network and share best practice at client only events
- provide regional events
- influence government policy
- offers opportunities for training and development
- publish guidance and disseminate best practice

Further information can be found on the CE website .

The Action Plan

Step 1: Sign up to the Clients' Commitments

Step 2: Get your Supply Chain partners to sign up to the Construction Commitments

Step 3: Implement principles outlined in the 6 Clients' Commitments Guides on and undertake your project

Step 4: Measure performance on your project

Step 5: Check behaviours on your project using the Clients' Commitments Tracker diagnostic

Step 6: Analyse performance and identify/ implement improvement actions