

Safetymark Consultancy Services

Elm House
Sydney Cottages
Claygate
Surrey
KT10 0EJ


Tel: 01372 462277

Fax: 01372 462288

E-mail: enquiries@safetymark.net

**PROFESSIONALISM
WITH INTEGRITY**



 **01372-462277**

www.safetymark.net

CDM Co-ordination

April 2007

CDM-C

Our Approach

Safetymark Consultancy Services acted as Planning Supervisors from the introduction of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations in March 1995 until its replacement by the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 on 6th April this year. Over this time we have earned a reputation for effective but pragmatic compliance with our statutory duties, addressing risk in a realistic way rather than following fixed ideas or rules.

Anticipating the introduction of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 we updated our procedures some time ago and on some current major projects that spanned the introduction of the new Regulations have been undertaking the new role of CDM Coordinator for six months already.

We take our statutory duties seriously and believe that other members of the team should do likewise. We think of ourselves as an integral part of the design team. We believe that our role is one of facilitator, to ensure that risks that can be affected by design are identified, effectively assessed and where practicable controlled. We believe that recording and communication of information is a key part of our role and ensure that the Pre Construction Information, the Design Risk Register and the Health and Safety File are conspicuous for their clarity. We do not believe that safety considerations should stifle good design, on the contrary we believe that they should benefit the built environment.

Our Methodology

As CDM Coordinators our primary roles are to:

- give advice and assistance to the client on their compliance with the CDM Regulations;
- ensure that there are suitable arrangements for the co-ordination of health and safety measures during planning and preparation for the construction phase;
- take steps to identify, collect and communicate the pre-construction information;
- ensure that designers comply with their duties under the regulations;
- prepare or update the health and safety file.

Our methodology is centred around three documents, or to be more accurate three collections of information, the Pre Construction Information, the Design Risk Register and the Health & Safety File

Pre Construction Information

The pre construction information is a document, or to be more accurate a collection of documents, to provide designers and contractors who may be bidding for the work (or whom clients intend to engage), with project-specific information needed to assist them to manage health and safety hazards and risk.

The pre construction information can also be used when reviewing designers and contractors fee proposals, costs estimated or tenders to determine whether they have made adequate provision to both comply with their statutory duties under safety related legislation and manage the hazards and risks associated with the project.

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Pre Construction Information (continued)

The pre construction information includes:

- a description of project and the planned programme for both design and construction
- the clients arrangements, developed with us as the CDM Co-ordinator, for managing health and safety during both the design and construction phases of the project
- where work is carried out on the clients premises, health and safety requirements relating to the of the client's undertaking
- restrictions related to the environment in which the site is located and on-site risks including those identified as part of the design process.
- health hazards, including those associated with existing structures, ground conditions and those arising from client's activities.

The pre construction information develops as a document until such time as the Principal Contractor produces a suitable construction phase plan. At this time the construction phase plan replaces the pre construction information as the health and safety management plan for the project. At this point responsibility for the plan also transfers from us as the CDM Co-ordinator to the Principal Contractor, although we retain responsibility for co-coordinating health and safety issues associated with ongoing design.

The Design Risk Register

Although the CDM2007 ACOP makes the point that it is not a legal requirement under CDM 2007 for designers to record their deliberations when managing risk by design, it does emphasise the benefits of recording and providing information on the significant risks. It is suggested by the ACOP and confirmed by industry guidance that recording the design risk management process will satisfy the requirement under the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 for designers with more than five employees, to keep a written record of the significant risks identified in risk assessments.

We for our part believe that on all but the most simple projects it is impossible, due to the iterative nature of design, to manage risk during the design phase without having some record of the hazards identified and the action taken to avoid or reduce the associated risks. The need for recording is particularly important when either, there are many designers, or the design must pass from one set of designers to another.

We therefore recommend on all of our projects that the risk process is recorded using a central design risk register. It is our belief that a design risk register can be a very helpful, simple tool for recording issues, actions and ownership, in a manner that can be readily transmitted around the team.

When adopted on a project, the design risk register is used to record both the risks than can be controlled by design and the actions taken by designers to control these risks. To achieve this we facilitate a design risk review meeting at as early a stage in the design as our appointment allows and again at relevant points during the whole design process. It is important that the initial design risk review is attended by all designers and where practicable those who will construct, use, maintain and clean the building or structure. This allows the design team to create a register that identifies the key health and safety risks that designers must try to remove, reduce or control by design.

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The Design Risk Register (continued)

It was our belief that the register should be managed by us as CDM Co-ordinator however experience has shown over the last few years that although on smaller projects this results in a more accurate record of the design risk management process, there is a tendency on larger projects for designers to feel the process is ours rather than theirs. On such projects it is also difficult for the CDM Co-ordinator to be involved in the design process in such a way to ensure relevant hazards are always considered at appropriate time. We now recommend that the register is owned by the Lead Designer who is best placed to ensure that the listed Hazards are considered at the appropriate points. Our role as CDM Co-ordinator, as it is legally required to be, to ensure that the process happens. To do this we will monitor the design and the risk control process by attending design team meetings and where appropriate, by reviewing drawings and specification or the facilitation of further design risk review meetings.

Even though we believe the risk register should be at the centre of the risk management process and a useful tool to assist in the risk management process, it is perhaps not always the best means of communicating information to others within the team. Where therefore recommend, where appropriate, that information is extracted from the register and included as notes on drawings, or where more detailed information is required within the pre-construction information.

The Health and Safety File

The development of the health and safety starts as soon as we are appointed. At our first meeting with the client to agree the management arrangements we discuss and agree a suitable, user-friendly format for the file and what type of information it should contain. This format is then recorded in the pre construction information along with details of those who we feel will be responsible for producing the information. The file itself will not however contain much information until well into the design stage when information containing details of services and hazards that will remain after the construction work is completed and can be copied from the pre construction information into the file. The bulk of the information will be obtained via the Principal Contractor as the construction phase proceeds with as built drawings provided by the architect, structural engineer and specialist contractors and designers towards the end of the construction phase. The aim is to have the file ready to hand over to the client as practical completion.

Managing the Flow of Information

A key CDM Co-ordinator duty is to "promptly provide in a convenient form to those involved with the design of the structure; and to every contractor (including the principal contractor) who may be or has been appointed by the client, such parts of the preconstruction information which are relevant to each"

Where ever practical we prefer to work using an online document management system. This approach allows all team members to have immediate access to all design information. The document management system at the start of the project will hold the pre construction information. As the project proceeds the design information will be added. Finally as the construction work proceeds the documents will be updated so that at the end of the project the information contained will become the project health and safety file. To this end Safetymark are developing their own online document management system, **Safetybase**, which will be available to all their clients as part of the service we offer.



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CDM-C

CDM-C Design Phase



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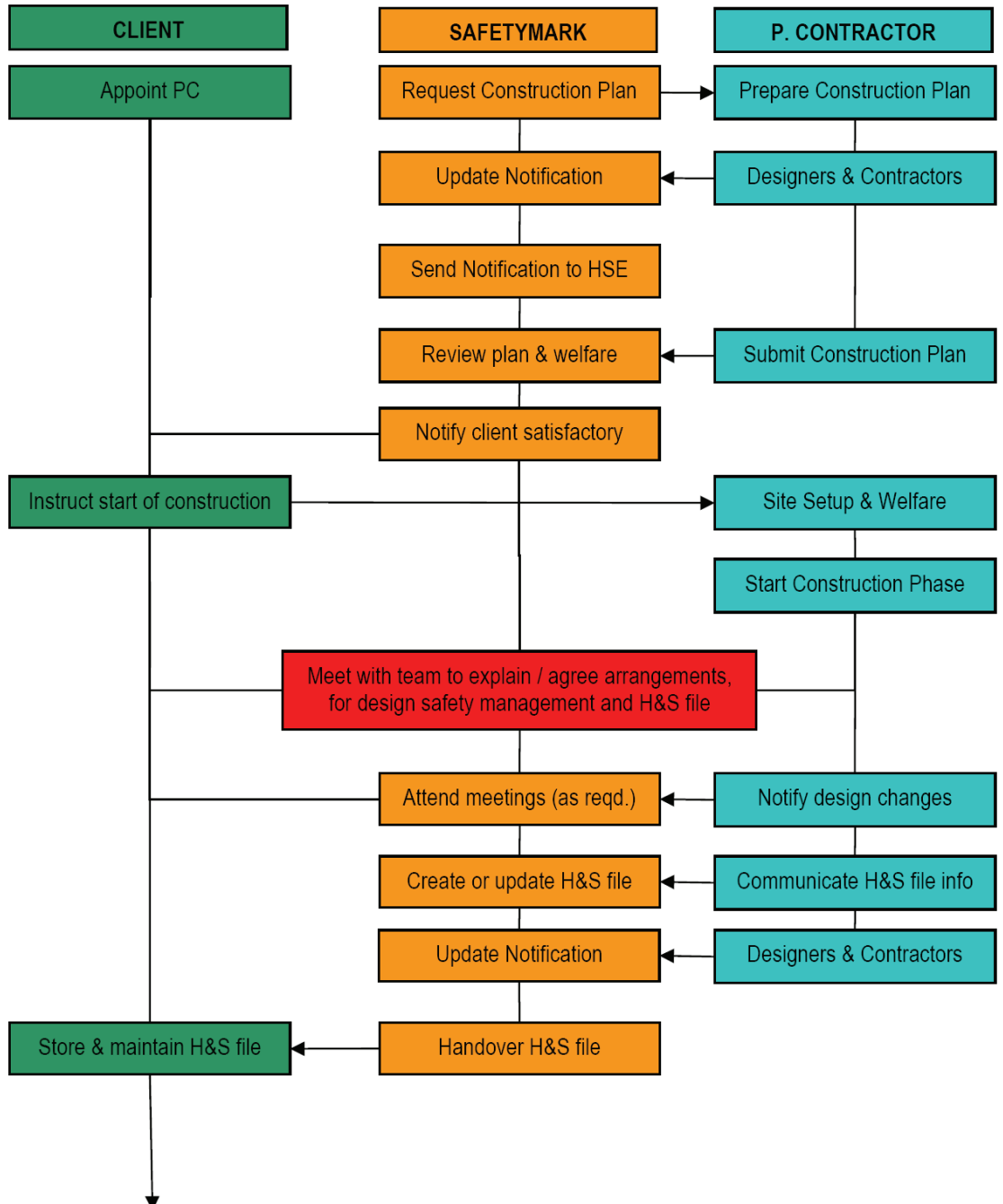
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Our Experience

Safetymark Consultancy Services specialise in Offices, Factories, Healthcare, Education and Historic Buildings although we have experience in many other areas. Our client and project lists demonstrate our depth and breadth of experience.

Projects - High Value

Project	Client	Cost
Wey Energy (Woking Council)	New Bridge / Infrastructure Project	£4,600,000
Ashford & St Peter's Hospitals	St Peter's Reconfiguration Project	£7,200,000
East & North Hertfordshire Hospitals	Radiotherapy Unit	£8,500,000
East & North Hertfordshire Hospitals	Recladding Lister Hospital	£8,500,000
West Hertfordshire Hospital	Designing a Healthy Future	£36,000,000
East Kent Hospitals	Key Worker Accommodation	£6,800,000
Hertfordshire Child Care Facilities	Young Herts	£17,300,000
Ealing Hospital	Fire Upgrade	£8,000,000
Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust	Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit	£5,000,000

Projects - Property

Project	Client	Cost
New Flats Carlton Drive	Marston Properties	£12,000,000
27 Ackmar Road London	Marston Properties	£500,000
Industrial Units Witham	Geoffrey Osborne Ltd	£5,000,000
The Old House Weybridge	Property Investment Holdings Ltd	£200,000
Regional House Slough	Property Investment Holdings Ltd	£900,000
Victoria House Redhill	Property Investment Holdings Ltd	£ 500,000
Bone Lane, Newbury	Property Investment Holdings Ltd	£ 500,000
Surgery, Chelmsford	Assura Property Ltd	£300,000
West Byfleet, Health Centre	Assura Property Ltd	£300,000
Abbey Court, Tunbridge	Assura Property Ltd	£500,000
Shinfield Health Centre	Assura Property Ltd	£2,000,000