

## CDM REGULATIONS 2015

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### Dutyholder: Designer

#### The role of a designer

As a designer your decisions can affect the health and safety of workers and others who will construct, maintain, repair, clean, refurbish and eventually demolish or remove the building or structure, as well as those who will use it as a completed workplace.

Not taking into account of the risks arising from the design can adversely affect the project and make it harder for contractors to manage those risks.

Your design forms an important part of delivering a project safely and without risks to health.

#### What do you have to do?

##### 1. Make clients aware of their duties

When the client engages you to carry out design work you must make sure that they understand their responsibilities under CDM 2015 before you start.

On projects with more than one contractor the client must appoint a principal designer. If you are working as one of a team of designers, it is important that you know who the principal designer is, and that you co-operate with them.

##### 2. Prepare and modify designs for safety and health

Designers can help to avoid and reduce the risks that arise during construction and associated work.

When preparing or modifying designs, your first aim is to eliminate risks to anyone who may be affected by your design or, if that is not possible, to reduce or control the risks.

Design is rarely a simple one-step operation. It usually involves you making changes as a result of discussion with others and as more information becomes available. Your design may also become more detailed as project goes from concept to fully detailed proposals.

Your design will require you to apply your professional or trade expertise to produce information needed by others. They will be relying on you to do this so you should make sure that the

information can be clearly understood by those who will use it.

##### 3. Eliminate, reduce and control risks through design

As a designer you will need to take account of the general principles of prevention when preparing or modifying your design. The principles provide a framework within which a design is considered for any potential health and safety risks which may affect:

- workers, or anyone else who may be affected during construction
- those who may maintain or clean the building once it is built
- those who use the building as a workplace.

Health and safety risks must be considered alongside other factors that influence the design, such as cost, fitness for purpose, aesthetics and environmental impact.

When considering health and safety risks, you are expected to do what is reasonable at the time that the design is prepared, taking into account current industry knowledge and practice.

Risks that cannot be addressed at the initial stage of a project should be reviewed later on, during the detailed design stage.

##### 4. Co-operate and co-ordinate with others

You must co-operate with the client, other designers and anyone else who provides you with information, in particular the principal designer.