

**Q. When did the Construction (Design & Management) Regulations 2007 come into force & what was the key aim in updating the regulations?**

A. The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM2007) they came into force on 6 April 2007. They replaced the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (CDM94) and the Construction (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1996 (CHSW).

The key aim of CDM2007 is to integrate health and safety into the management of the project and to encourage everyone involved to work together to:

- Improve the planning and management of projects from the very start;
- Identify hazards early on, so they can be eliminated or reduced at the design or planning stage and the remaining risks can be properly managed;
- Target effort where it can do the most good in terms of health and safety; and
- Discourage unnecessary bureaucracy.

These Regulations are intended to focus attention on planning and management throughout construction projects, from design concept onwards. The aim is for health and safety considerations to be treated as an essential, but normal part of a project's development - not an afterthought or bolt-on extra.

**The effort devoted to planning and managing health and safety, should be in proportion to the risks and complexity associated with the project. When deciding what you need to do to comply with these Regulations, your focus should always be on action necessary to reduce and manage risks. Any paperwork produced should help with communication and risk management. Paperwork which adds little to the management of risk is a waste of effort, and can be a dangerous distraction from the real business of risk reduction and management.**

Time and thought invested at the start of the project will pay dividends not only in improved health and safety, but also in:

- Reductions in the overall cost of ownership, because the structure is designed for safe and easy maintenance and cleaning work, and because key information is available in the health and safety file;
- Reduced delays;
- More reliable costing's and completion dates;
- Improved communication and co-operation between key parties; and
- Improved quality of the finished product.