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**IN FOCUS**

**CSCS - Industry Accreditation Withdrawal**

Following the withdrawal of the Construction Site Operative, Construction Related Occupation and Construction Site Visitors Cards, the only card remaining which does not require a qualification are those which were issued and are still being renewed under Industry Accreditation (IA), also known as Grandfather Rights.

In order to comply with the requirements of the Construction Leadership Council all cards issued by CSCS must demonstrate the achievement of a nationally recognised construction related qualification.

This means;

- All IA cards renewed from 1 January 2020 will expire on 31 December 2024 and will not be renewed
- CSCS will cease renewing IA cards from 30 June 2024.

For further information, please [click here](#).

**Silica Dust**

Crystalline silica is a natural substance found in stone, rocks, sand and clay, as well as products like bricks, tiles, concrete and some plastic composites.

When these materials are worked on the crystalline silica is released as a very fine dust which can be inhaled. This dust causes hundreds of thousands of deaths across the world every year.

Silica dust is only harmful when it is inhaled deep into your lungs, where oxygen is taken up into the blood. Respirable particles are typically less than around 5 micrometers in size.

Individual silica dust particles are so small that they are invisible to the naked eye in normal light. You could have relatively high airborne concentration without being aware of it.

Crystalline silica in the form of quartz (which is found in most rocks) or cristobalite dust is classified as a Group 1 carcinogen meaning it is a definite cause of cancer in humans.

Long-term exposure to silica dust can cause silicosis (an irreversible chronic respiratory illness), lung cancer and a number of other serious diseases including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease such as emphysema.

Research suggests that around 900 new cases of lung cancer each year in Britain can be attributed to past exposure to silica dust in construction, granite and stone industries, and various industrial processes. Lung cancer is difficult to treat and most diagnosed with the disease will die within a few years; only one in

20 will live 10 or more years. It is estimated that nearly 800 people a year die from lung cancer caused by silica exposure at work. There are about 500,000 people exposed to silica dust at work in the UK.



Your maximum daily silica exposure is tiny when compared to a penny.

Common scenarios where people may be exposed to silica dust include;

- Drilling, cutting, chiselling or sanding silica-containing materials
- Dealing with cement
- Moving earth e.g. excavation
- Dry sweeping up after a task where silica dust has been created

Keep dust levels down by using one of the following methods;

- Local exhaust ventilation on fixed piece of equipment
- On-tool extraction device on a hand-held power tool
- Water suppression

Importantly, one should protect themselves by wearing a respirator (FFP3, Face Fit Tested, Face Mask) to stop the dust from getting into lungs. Face Mask should always be worn, even for quick tasks.

For more information [click here](#).

**Latest Health and Safety Alerts**

The following health and safety alert has been issued by the HSE;

**Change in Enforcement Expectation for Mild Steel Welding Fume**

New scientific evidence shows that exposure to mild steel welding fume can cause lung cancer and possibly kidney cancer in humans. The Workplace Health Expert Committee has endorsed the reclassification of mild steel welding fume as a human carcinogen. With immediate effect, there is a strengthening of HSE's enforcement expectation for all welding fume, including mild steel welding; because general ventilation does not achieve the necessary control.

For further information on this topic, please [click here](#).



# IN COURT

- \* A roofing company has been sentenced after a worker fell around 3m through a rooflight and suffered a fractured pelvis and spinal injuries. The worker fell through a skylight that was covered with felt. The HSE found that air bags had initially been provided as a means of mitigating any falls however, the air bags had been moved to clear debris meaning the worker hit the floor instead. The company was fined £20,000 and ordered to pay £1,100 in costs.
- \* A building firm has been fined £900,000 and ordered to pay costs of £60,336.99 after the death of an employee who died from head injuries when a wall collapsed on a construction site.

\* A Devon based hoteliers has been sentenced after materials containing asbestos were disturbed during a major refurbishment. An investigation by the HSE found that, during the early stages of the project, an employee raised concerns about the potential presence of ACMs. Enquiries were made however no physical testing was undertaken. Works continued for several months and further concerns were again raised by an external contractor. Testing of the material being disturbed was eventually undertaken in February 2017 and the presence of ACMs was confirmed. While the HSE investigation was in progress, a further incident occurred in May 2017. The hoteliers were fined £80,000 and ordered to pay £14,999.60 in costs.

- \* A repair and maintenance company has been fined £150,000 and order to pay costs of £5,391.76 after a worker fell around 2 meters whilst working on a roof. There was no edge protection around the roof and access was via an unsecured ladder which slipped causing the worker to fall. The worker sustained contusion and bruising to his head along with hearing damage.
- \* A self employed builder has been sentenced to 14 months in prison after exposing roof workers to fall from height risks (very important to note that no accident happened). The builder was found guilty of breaching Regulation 15(2) of the CDM Regulations 2015.

## Types of Asbestos Survey

There appears to be some misunderstanding on type of asbestos survey required for construction work. We will explain this as follows:

There are 2 main types of asbestos surveys; a management asbestos survey and a refurbishment and demolition (RAD) asbestos survey.

A management asbestos survey is required during the normal occupation and use of a commercial building or common areas of a residential building (i.e. staircases and corridors within a block of flats) to ensure continued management of any asbestos containing materials (ACM's) in-situ. The purpose of this survey is to locate, as far as reasonably practicable, the presence and extent of any suspect ACMs in the building which could be damaged or disturbed during normal occupancy, including foreseeable maintenance and installation, and to assess their condition. A management survey can be completed using a combination of sampling ACMs and presuming ACMs or just presuming.

A refurbishment and demolition (RAD) asbestos survey is necessary when the building, or part of it, is to be upgraded, refurbished or demolished. This type of survey is used to locate and describe, as far as reasonably practicable, all ACMs in the area where the refurbishment work will take place or in the whole building if demolition is planned. The survey will be fully intrusive and involve destructive inspection, as necessary, to gain access to all areas, including those that may be difficult to reach. A refurbishment and demolition survey may also be required in other circumstances, e.g. when more intrusive maintenance and repair work will be carried out or for plant removal or dismantling. In this type of survey, asbestos is identified so that it can be removed (rather than to 'manage' it), the survey does not normally assess the condition of the asbestos, other than to indicate areas of damage or where additional asbestos debris may be present. However, where the asbestos removal may not take place for some time, the ACMs' condition will need to be assessed and the materials managed.

In a nutshell, for proposed construction works a refurbishment and demolition (RAD) asbestos survey is required.

## Reports and Guidance

- \* The HSE has updated their advice sheets specific to woodworking. These advice sheets can help companies comply with COSHH Regulations. Please [click here](#) to view the updated advice sheets.
- \* According to the British Safety Industry Federation, recent UK research suggests that up to 50% of all Respiratory Protective Equipment (i.e. Face Masks etc) used does not offer adequate protection to the wearer. [Click here](#) to read the full article.
- \* NEBOSH and the HSE have launched a new Introduction to Incident Investigation qualification. Qualification is available from 30 April 2019. [Click here](#) to find out more about the qualification.

**The HSE has increase their Fee For Intervention (FFI) charge by almost 20%; from £129/hour to £154/hour. Please [click here](#) to read more or [here](#) for more information about FFI.**

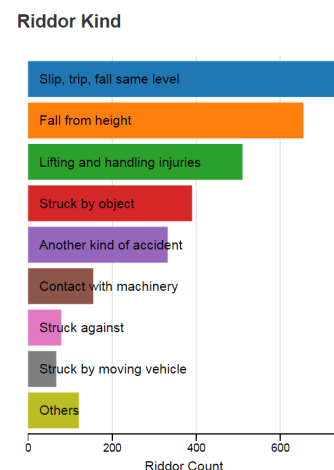
## HSE Construction Division RIDDOR - Risk profiles

The HSE has created a data visualisation dashboard designed to make the data more relevant and easily used. The dashboard provides sample data; 3050 records from 2011-2017.

The data reveals the following information;

- Most RIDDOR reports involved those in the 25-34 age band. Most fatal RIDDOR reports involved those aged between 35-54 (47 out of 100).
- Most RIDDOR reports involved incidents which took place in London (496). Most fatal RIDDOR reports also involved incidents which took place in London (22).

To view the full dashboard, please [click here](#).



# Simplified Guide to CDM\* (Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015)

The CDM Regulations are complex and difficult to understand, especially for those who are not involved with them on regular basis. We (Safescope) have put together the below guide to explain as simply as possible how the CDM Regulations apply on different construction projects.

**Domestic Clients:** domestic clients are people who have construction work carried out on their own home, or the home of a family member, which is not done as part of a business, whether for profit or not.

**Non-domestic (Commercial) Clients:** non-domestic (commercial) clients are people or organisations that have construction work carried out in connection with a business, whether for profit or not. For example, a client is having work carried out to their own home but is paying for the work through a company; this makes them a non-domestic client.

**One Contractor:** means that only one contractor (including any sub-contractors) will be involved in construction work.

There are essentially four project scenarios:

## 1. Domestic Client Project Involving One Contractor

Client Duties: to be fulfilled by the contractor.

Designer Duties: to be fulfilled by the designers involved.

Principal Designer (PD) Duties: PD appointment is not required.

Principal Contractor (PC) Duties: PC appointment is not required.

Construction Phase Plan (CPP): to be prepared by the contractor.

Health and Safety File: Health and Safety File is not required.

## 2. Non-domestic Client Project Involving One Contractor

Client Duties: to be fulfilled by the client.

Designer Duties: to be fulfilled by the designers involved.

Principal Designer (PD) Duties: PD appointment is not required.

Principal Contractor (PC) Duties: PC appointment is not required.

Construction Phase Plan (CPP): to be prepared by the contractor.

Health and Safety File: Health and Safety File is not required.

## 3. Domestic Client Project Involving More than One Contractor

Client Duties: to be fulfilled by the appointed PC by default or by the PD by written agreement.

Designer Duties: to be fulfilled by the designers involved.

Principal Designer (PD) Duties: PD appointment is required. If the client fails to appoint a PD then the designer in control of the pre-construction phase of the project automatically becomes the PD.

Principal Contractor (PC) Duties: PC appointment is required. If the client fails to appoint a PC then the contractor in control of the construction phase of the project automatically becomes the PC.

Pre-construction Information: to be prepared by the PD.

Construction Phase Plan (CPP): to be prepared by the PC.

Health and Safety File: to be prepared by the PD.

## 4. Non-domestic Client Project Involving More than One Contractor

Client Duties: to be fulfilled by the client

Designer Duties: to be fulfilled by the designers involved

Principal Designer (PD) Duties: PD appointment is required. If the client fails to appoint a PD in writing then the client must fulfil the PD duties.

Principal Contractor (PC) Duties: PC appointment is required. If the client fails to appoint a PC in writing then the clients must fulfil the PC duties.

Pre-construction Information: to be prepared by the PD.

Construction Phase Plan (CPP): to be prepared by the PC.

Health and Safety File: to be prepared by the PD.

\* Please note that the above guide is only a simplified version produced to clarify the basic duties. However, project specific details will be required to provide accurate information and advice on application of the CDM Regulations.

## Application of CDM Duties

	Non Domestic Client More than One Contractor	Domestic Client More than One Contractor	Non Domestic Client One Contractor	Domestic Client One Contractor
<b>Client</b>	✓ (by Client)	✓ (by PC or PD)	✓ (by Client)	✓ (by Contractor)
<b>Designer</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓
<b>PD (Principal Designer)</b>	✓ (by PD)	✓ (by PD or LD)	X	X
<b>PC (Principal Contractor)</b>	✓ (by PC)	✓ (by PC or MC)	X	X
<b>Contractor</b>	✓	✓	✓	✓

## CDM Documentation and Duty Holders

	Non Domestic Client More than One Contractor	Domestic Client More than One Contractor	Non Domestic Client One Contractor	Domestic Client One Contractor
<b>F10 Notification</b>	✓ (if threshold met) By Client	✓ (if threshold met) By PC or PD	✓ (if threshold met) By Client	✓ (if threshold met) By Contractor
<b>PCI Pre-construction Information</b>	✓ By PD	✓ By PD or LD	✓ By Client	✓ By Contractor
<b>CPP Construction Phase Plan</b>	✓ By PC	✓ By PC or MC	✓ By Contractor	✓ By Contractor
<b>Health and Safety File</b>	✓ By PD and PC	✓ By PD and PC/MC	N/A	N/A

# Safescope Site Health and Safety Inspections

Regular health and safety inspections on construction sites are carried out for a number of reasons. These inspections can be internal, carried out by the contractor's own health and safety trained staff, or external (sometimes called third party inspections), carried out by external health and safety services provider (on behalf of the client, principal contractor or an insurance company - who is insuring that construction project).

We (Safescope) carry out nearly 500 site inspections every year in Greater London and surrounding counties. We are currently reviewing our process for site inspections with the purpose of providing a more comprehensive and accurate reflection of site conditions against the legal requirement and best practice standards. This review process includes the following, among other things.

- **Scoring system:** an improved system to give a fairer and more accurate score for the site overall, taking into consideration different levels of risk posed by various activities ongoing on a construction site, instead of scoring each activities at the same level.
- **Standards on site:** developing a standard and structured document to guide what one should look for when carrying out a site inspection. The aim is to achieve a higher level of consistency in site inspection findings (report), regardless of which team member carried out the inspection.
- **Scoring guidance:** developing comprehensive guidance on how site inspections are scored. The aim again is to achieve a higher level of consistency in site inspection scores, regardless of which team member carried out the inspection.

The above improvements will also help the site management to understand and appreciate how the site inspections have been scored and what actions they will need to take to raise the site health and safety standards and achieve a higher score.

Once the above review process is complete, we will trial the new system and, based on the feedback received from our valued clients, we will amend, update and implement the new system. We are hopeful and confident that the above review will help us produce a more comprehensive and accurate reflection of site safety conditions.

## Knowledge Corner - Writing Designer Risk Assessment/Information

Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) 2015 require designers to provide comprehensive information, about the risks originating from their designs, to client, principal designer, other designers, principal contractor and contractors (Regulations 8(6), 9(3)(b) and 9(4)). The above information should include design, construction and post-completion maintenance phases. For clarification, "designers" include architects, consulting engineers, quantity surveyors, chartered surveyors, interior designers, temporary works engineers, technicians or anyone who specifies or alters a design.

It is now a well established practice to use Designer Risk Assessments (DRAs) to fulfil the above requirements. However, this information can also be included on drawings etc. We (Safescope) act as Principal Designers and receive a number of DRAs on a regular basis. Disappointingly, the majority of DRAs (almost 90%) tend to be very generic and a tick box exercise. In reality, DRAs are a great opportunity for designers to proactively inform the relevant parties about the risks that they are aware of in a project.

Residual DRAs at post completion stage are essential to inform the client about the residual risks that the client is expected to manage. Failure to provide this information can lead to injuries during post completion maintenance phase resulting in potential liability or even prosecution for designers.

However, it is also a fact that there are no good examples or effective CPD training courses available to assist the designers in writing project specific and effective DRAs. The DRA template should include design, pre-construction, construction and post completion sections and ideally should be no more than two A4 pages for a medium size project (say up to £1m). Safescope have developed "A Practical Guidance on Designer Duties" and a "Sample DRA" to assist designers. Please contact us to receive a free copy of the Guidance and Sample DRA.



**SAFESCOPE**  
CDM and Construction Safety Specialists

- CDM Services (including Principal Designer) ☺
- Construction Health and Safety ☺
- Building (O&M) Manuals ☺
- Construction Health and Safety Training ☺
- Face Fit Testing and Training ☺

I hope you find this newsletter issue informative, useful and helpful. Our aim is to make the newsletter relevant and easy (bite size information) to cover a range of new topical issues, news and legislation. Any feedback is most welcome.

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