

Newsletter – March 2009

HSE Targets Property Developers

The HSE have announced a new campaign to promote property developers' responsibilities under health and safety legislation. The campaign began on Monday 23 February, ahead of the HSE's latest nationwide inspection blitz on construction sites.

Launching the campaign, the HSE warned that its inspectors would be "out in force" on refurbishment sites across the country in March, during its latest "enforcement-led intensive inspection initiative". We understand the HSE have brought back 'retired' inspectors to increase their resources for this programme. These inspections will focus on working at height safely, good order on site, and the risks associated with the removal of asbestos on construction refurbishment sites.

The [HSE's campaign website](#) explains that anyone developing a property they don't intend to live in has responsibilities as the client under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. The HSE website contains advice on planning a successful project; guidance on recruiting competent people to carry out work; case studies featuring specific issues such as asbestos and work at height; information on site welfare provisions; FAQs; and signposts to further information. A copy is attached for your information.

If you have the required competence and satisfactory Health & Safety management arrangements in place you should not have any concerns, but should note the increased probability of a site inspection during March.

However, for some, now may be a good time to review procedures and practice and, where necessary, to take corrective action to ensure the safety of their workforce and others affected by their activities.

If you need support, Curran Webb Ltd (CWL) has experienced and competent safety advisors who can help you with policies and procedures, risk assessments, method statements and site inspections.

CWL also provides CDM Co-ordinator services and is a corporate member of APS. Our safety advisors are all individually accredited on the APS Register of CDM Co-ordinators, a qualification recognised in the CDM 2007 ACoP as an example of competence.

CWL provides a broad range of training services. These range from:

- CITB Managers (5 day) and Supervisors (2 day) courses ;
- A range of short courses (half day) on skills such as Manual Handling, Asbestos Awareness and Abrasive Wheels;
- Boardroom briefings on topics such as Director Responsibilities /Leadership in H&S and CDM responsibilities (2 - 4 hours);
- In-house H&S Awareness Workshops (1½ - 2 hours) on subjects such Work at Height, Fire and COSHH;
- On-site toolbox talks (20-30mins) on subjects such as slips & trips, housekeeping, etc;

The CDM 2007 places great emphasis on competence at all levels and the CDM 2007 ACoP gives the CITB Managers (5 day) course as an example of competence for anyone managing a building site.

The HSE have also just published a new guidance leaflet: Are you developing property? A quick guide to your legal responsibilities as a client under the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. This can be downloaded from the HSE website.

Glenn Webb

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