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Report on Health and Safety Legislation and Management in Construction

Introduction

Health and safety regulations are essential to protecting the public and employees' well-being in the construction sector. The purpose of this report is to go over applicable health and safety laws related to the building projects including the installation of external wall insulation and roof repairs on twelve homes located on the same street. It will also cover the application of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (CDM) and risk assessments for key activities, as well as how legislation impacts practice and health and safety management on-site.

Relevant Health and Safety Legislation

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA)

One of the main pieces of legislation controlling health and safety in the UK is the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974 (HSWA). It offers a framework for guaranteeing employees' welfare, health, and safety at work in addition to safeguarding everyone else who might be impacted by work-related activities. The act imposes obligations on employers, workers, independent contractors, and other parties to guarantee a safe and healthy work environment.

The act requires employers to guarantee the health, safety, and welfare of their workers while they are at work, to the extent that it is reasonably practicable. In addition to guaranteeing the safe use, handling, storage, and transportation of substances, this also involves maintaining safe equipment and facilities and processes of work as well as offering guidance, instruction, training, and supervision.

Along with individuals whose health and safety may be impacted by their actions at work, employees also have an obligation to take reasonable precautions for their own health and safety. Along with cooperating with their employer, they must comply with safety rules and procedures.

Employers are responsible for protecting the health and safety of anybody who may be impacted by their job activities, including contractors, members of the public, and guests to their property.

Employers are required by the Act to identify workplace hazards through risk assessments and implement necessary controls. This entails putting control measures in place to get rid of or lessen hazards as well as routinely checking and updating risk assessments.

The Act promotes communication and collaboration on health and safety related issues between companies and workers. Workers have the right to bring up health and safety issues with their

employer, and employers are required to engage with safety representatives chosen by unions or appointed by the staff.

Enforcing health and safety laws in the UK is the responsibility of the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and local authorities. They are able to conduct workplace inspections, look into complaints and incidents, send out improvement and restriction warnings, and bring legal action against companies who violate health and safety regulations. Fines and imprisonment are two possible consequences for noncompliance.

(British Safety Council, 2023)

(GOV.UK, 1974)

(Health and Safety Executive, 1974)

(TUC, 2022)

Construction, Design and Management Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015)

The United Kingdom's comprehensive collection of regulations governing health and safety in the building industry is known as the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 (CDM 2015). The purpose of CDM 2015 is to enhance health and safety regulations and lower the likelihood of accidents and illness in building projects by emphasising planning, coordination, and communication at every stage of the project.

All construction projects, regardless of size or duration, including new construction, renovations, demolitions, and maintenance work, are covered by CDM 2015. Both residential and commercial projects are covered by the regulations.

According to the CDM 2015, there are a number of duty holders with distinct duties that must be fulfilled during the project. It is the client's entire obligation to make sure that health and safety are properly managed from the beginning to the end of the project.

During the pre-construction stage, the principle designer is in charge of overseeing health and safety, which includes incorporating safety into the design process and creating the health and safety file.

During the building phase, the principal contractor is in charge of overseeing health and safety, which includes organising the work of contractors and creating and carrying out the plan for the phase.

Contractors and designers (such as architects and engineers) are responsible for making sure that their work is done safely and in accordance with health and safety regulations. Along with cooperating with other responsible individuals, they also have to share any necessary health and safety information.

Before work starts, the client must give designers and contractors pre-construction information. This data contains appropriate health and safety details regarding the location, the buildings that are currently in place, and any recognised risks.

Before beginning work on the project, the major contractor must create a strategy for the construction phase. The plan describes the steps that will be taken to manage health and safety risks during the building phase. These steps include site management, work activity coordination, and welfare facility provision.

At the conclusion of the project, the principle designer is in charge of creating a health and safety file. This file includes instruction for future usage and maintenance, along with details on the health and safety concerns connected to the finished structure.

The importance that each responsible individual has the ability to perform their duties successfully is emphasised by the CDM 2015. In order to fulfil their responsibilities regarding health and safety, clients, designers, contractors, and other duty holders must possess sufficient knowledge, expertise and abilities.

(HSE, 2015)

(Legislation.gov.uk, 2015)

(CITB, 2015)

Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH)

In the UK, the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 (COSHH) are essential laws that protect employees from the hazards related to hazardous substances at work. Employers are required by COSHH to carry out comprehensive risk assessments in order to recognise and assess any potential risks that may arise from hazardous materials. To reduce exposure and avoid illness, control mechanisms including substitution, engineering controls, administrative controls, and person protective equipment (PPE) must be put in place. Employers must also give staff members sufficient training, education, and information about the risks associated with the materials they handle as well as the steps that must be taken to reduce those risks. To guarantee that control measures continue to be effective, and that workers health is safeguarded, regular monitoring of exposure levels and health surveillance are crucial components of COSHH compliance. In order to successfully respond to accidents, the laws place a strong emphasis on emergency planning and procedures, as well as the safe handling, storage, and disposal of hazardous materials. All things considered, COSHH is essential in fostering a safe and healthy work environment by reducing the risks connected with hazardous materials.

(Legislation.gov.uk, 2011)

(Health and Safety Executive, 2004)

(Nwleics.gov.uk, 2016)

Work at Height Regulations 2005

The 2005 Working at Height Regulations are essential for guaranteeing the security of employees performing occupations that require elevation. The rules include a number of sectors, including construction, where there is a high risk of falls from heights. In order to identify risks and apply control measures to decrease the risk of falls, employers are required to conduct comprehensive risk assessments. The provision of appropriate equipment like guardrails, scaffolding, and personal fall protection devices may be one of these precautions. The regulations also stress how crucial it is to plan work at height and make sure that it is completed safely and by qualified workers. Workers performing operations at heights need proper training and supervision in order to recognise the hazards and operate equipment safely. Equipment must undergo routine maintenance and inspections to guarantee its sustained efficiency and safety. Employers must abide by the Working at

Heights Regulations of 2005 in order to safeguard the health and safety of their employees and avoid incidents and injuries related to falls from height.

(GOV.UK, 2011)

(Health and Safety Executive, 2019)

(HSE, 2005)

Influence of Legislation on Practice and On-site Management

By creating precise guidelines and standards that must be followed to protect the public's health and safety as well as the health and safety of construction workers, legislation has a huge impact on these activities. Managing health and safety on-site entails putting strong policies and processes in place to abide by legal requirements and successfully reduce hazards.

It is crucial to guarantee that all employees receive sufficient training and are competent enough to perform their jobs in a safe manner. Training in implementing personal protective equipment (PPE), handling hazardous materials, and working at heights are some examples of types of training that could be included.

Important components of health and safety management include creating method statements that specify safe work practices and carrying out in-depth risk assessments for every task. These records have to include dangers, evaluate risks, and specify the controls that will be put in place.

Ensuring proper implementation of health and safety measures and adherence to specified procedures is an essential part of effective site monitoring. Frequent inspections and monitoring assist in spotting possible risks and guarantee that the law is being followed.

Creating a positive safety culture at work requires employers and employees to establish clear channels of communication and consultation. Employees should be free to voice concerns or disclose dangers without worrying about repercussions.

(Dart, 2023)

(The Safety Maintenance Company, 2019)

Overcoming Barriers to Effective Health and Safety Management

Effective health and safety management in building projects may be affected by a number of issues, despite the clear legislation and recommended practices.

Implementing health and safety precautions may be challenging due to limited resources, including money, time and staff. But in the end, spending money on safety can lower the expenses related to incidents and injuries.

Attempts to enhance health and safety procedures may be impeded by reluctance to change or stubborn opinions about safety. It takes a leadership commitment, employee involvement, and continual education and training to address cultural concerns.

The complexity of work and multiple different trades often found working in construction projects can have a big effect on how hard it is to manage effective health and safety. To overcome these obstacles, efficient planning, cooperation, and communication are crucial.

Employees and management may grow complacent towards safety over time, which could result in gaps in attention and a higher chance of incidents happening. Preventing complacency can be improved by regular training, reinforcing safety protocols, and keeping a proactive approach to safety.

On this particular project some barriers to effective health and safety management may include working in limited space. It can be difficult to put control measures in place and properly operate equipment when working in a residential locations such as this street. Working in occupied housing can also provide problems to health and safety. In order to minimise interruption and guarantee the safety of tenants, further precautions must be taken to manage health and safety concerns that come with their presence.

To overcome these barriers, on-site managers can create a thorough construction plan that takes occupancy and space limitation into consideration, and schedule work to reduce hazards and interruptions. Openly discuss the construction timeline, any possible risks, the safety precautions in place, and any worries the occupants may have with them. They can also create exclusion zones, utilise barriers and signage, set up safe walking routes, and clearly label dangerous places to keep people out and keep workers and residents safe.

(Malik, 2023)

(Jane Pinfold, 2023)

Conclusion

In conclusion, in order to guarantee the health, safety, and welfare of employees and the general public during construction projects, compliance with appropriate health and safety laws, efficient on-site management techniques, and adherence to CDM standards are crucial. Construction companies can reduce risks and establish safer working environments by employing strong risk control methods and addressing obstacles to effective health and safety management.

Risk Assessments:

Activity to be Assessed			Assessment Number						
Working at height			DKW020616						
Persons undertaking or affected by the activity									
☐ Employees ☐ Contractor ☐ Public ☐ Pupil ☐ Service User ☐ Other									
Identified Hazards and Associated Risks		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Level					
1	Slips, trips and falls	3	2	6					
2	Falls of equipment or tools	2	4	8					
3	Faulty work platforms and scaffolding	3	3	9					
4	Falls of materials	3	3	9					
Control Measures Required									
1	Use of suitable access equipment such as scaffolding, ladders, or mobile elevated work platforms (MEWPs) to provide safe access to elevated areas.								
2	Installation of guardrails, edge protection, or barriers to prevent falls from unprotected edges or openings.								
3	Do not over stack waste materials or tools. Ensure netting and toe boards are installed on scaffolding.								
4	Only work from height when necessary to do so.								
5	Strategic planning of work needed to be carried out.								
Reassessment of Activity Hazards		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Level					
1	Slips, trips and falls	2	1	2					
2	Falls of equipment or tools	2	1	2					
3	Faulty work platforms or scaffolding	1	1	1					
4	Falls of Materials	2	1	2					
Name Position: Senior Health and safety officer		Signed		Date of Completion:					
Reviews		Key							
Review Date:	Likelihood	Severity	Severity of Injury	5	5	10	15	20	25
Reviewed by:	1 very unlikely 2 unlikely 3 likely 4 very likely 5 certainty	1 nuisance 2 minor 3 medical treatment 4 major 5 fatal		4	4	8	12	16	20
Review Date :				3	3	6	9	12	15
Reviewed by:				2	2	4	6	8	10
Review Date :				1	1	2	3	4	5
Reviewed by:				0	1	2	3	4	5
Review Date :	Likelihood of Injury								
Reviewed by:	Low Risk		Medium Risk		High Risk				

Activity to be Assessed			Assessment Number							
Re-roofing			DKW020616							
Persons undertaking or affected by the activity										
☐ Employees ☐ Contractor ☐ Public ☐ Pupil ☐ Service User ☐ Other										
Identified Hazards and Associated Risks			Likelihood		Severity		Risk Level			
1	Falls from height		3		3		9			
2	Injuries from manual handling		3		2		6			
3	Exposure to adverse weather conditions		3		2		6			
4	Dust exposure		4		2		8			
Control Measures Required										
1	Provide edge protection, guardrails and scaffolding to prevent falls from height.									
2	Use mechanical aids and safe lifting techniques to reduce the risk of injury when manual handling.									
3	Monitor weather forecasts and reschedule work if adverse weather conditions are anticipated.									
4	Wear correct PPE such as dust masks and safety eyewear.									
Reassessment of Activity Hazards			Likelihood		Severity		Risk Level			
1	Falls from height		2		1		2			
2	Injuries from manual handling		2		1		2			
3	Exposure to adverse weather conditions		1		1		1			
4	Dust exposure		2		2		4			
Name Position: Senior Health and safety officer			Signed			Date of Completion:				
Reviews		Key								
Review Date:	Likelihood	Severity		Severity of Injury	5	5	10	15	20	25
Reviewed by:	1 very unlikely 2 unlikely 3 likely 4 very likely 5 certainty	1 nuisance 2 minor 3 medical treatment 4 major 5 fatal	4		4	8	12	16	20	
Review Date :			3		3	6	9	12	15	
Reviewed by:			2		2	4	6	8	10	
Review Date :			1		1	2	3	4	5	
Reviewed by:			0		1	2	3	4	5	
Review Date :	Likelihood of Injury									
Reviewed by:	Low Risk		Medium Risk		High Risk					

Activity to be Assessed			Assessment Number		
Installation of external wall insulation			DKW020616		
Persons undertaking or affected by the activity					
☐ Employees ☐ Contractor ☐ Public ☐ Pupil ☐ Service User ☐ Other					
Identified Hazards and Associated Risks		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Level	
1	Falls from height	3	3	9	
2	Injuries from manual handling	3	2	6	
3	Exposure to hazardous substances in insulation materials.	3	3	9	
4	Noise	4	3	12	
Control Measures Required					
1	Provide edge protection, guardrails and scaffolding to prevent falls from height.				
2	Use mechanical aids and safe lifting techniques to reduce the risk of injury when manual handling.				
3	Adhere to COSHH 2002 guidelines.				
4	Wear correct PPE such ear defenders/plugs.				
Reassessment of Activity Hazards		Likelihood	Severity	Risk Level	
1	Falls from height	2	1	2	
2	Injuries from manual handling	2	1	2	
3	Exposure to hazardous substances in insulation materials	2	1	2	
4	Noise	3	2	6	
Name Position: Senior Health and safety officer		Signed		Date of Completion:	
Reviews		Key			
Review Date:	Likelihood	Severity	Severity of Injury	5	5
Reviewed by:	1 very unlikely 2 unlikely 3 likely 4 very likely 5 certainty	1 nuisance 2 minor 3 medical treatment 4 major 5 fatal		4	4
Review Date :				3	3
Reviewed by:				2	2
Review Date :				1	1
Reviewed by:				0	1
Review Date :	Likelihood of Injury		2	3	
Reviewed by:			4	5	
				Low Risk	Medium Risk
				High Risk	

Activity to be Assessed			Assessment Number							
Public Accessing			DKW020616							
Persons undertaking or affected by the activity										
☐ Employees ☐ Contractor ☒ * Public ☐ Pupil ☐ Service User ☐ Other										
Identified Hazards and Associated Risks			Likelihood		Severity		Risk Level			
1	Scaffolding		2		2		4			
2	Falling materials or debris		3		3		9			
3	Heavy machinery		3		4		12			
4	Trip hazards		3		3		9			
Control Measures Required										
1	Ensure all scaffolding at head height has protective foam around rails to avoid injury. Put ladders away at night to stop children climbing up scaffolding.									
2	Ensure netting and toe boards are secured on scaffolding.									
3	Provide clear and safe walkways for public.									
4	Ensure no material or trailing leads are left around the site where the public could access.									
Reassessment of Activity Hazards			Likelihood		Severity		Risk Level			
1	Scaffolding		2		1		2			
2	Falling materials or debris		2		1		2			
3	Heavy machinery		1		1		1			
4	Trip hazards		1		1		1			
Name Position: Senior Health and safety officer			Signed			Date of Completion:				
Reviews		Key								
Review Date:	Likelihood	Severity		Severity of Injury	5	5	10	15	20	25
Reviewed by:	1 very unlikely 2 unlikely 3 likely 4 very likely 5 certainty	1 nuisance 2 minor 3 medical treatment 4 major 5 fatal	4		4	8	12	16	20	
Review Date :			3		3	6	9	12	15	
Reviewed by:			2		2	4	6	8	10	
Review Date :			1		1	2	3	4	5	
Reviewed by:			0		1	2	3	4	5	
Review Date :			Likelihood of Injury							
Reviewed by:	Low Risk		Medium Risk		High Risk					

Activity to be Assessed			Assessment Number							
Unloading of material deliveries			DKW020616							
Persons undertaking or affected by the activity										
☐ Employees ☐ Contractor ☐ Public ☐ Pupil ☐ Service User ☐ Other										
Identified Hazards and Associated Risks			Likelihood		Severity		Risk Level			
1	Heavy machinery		3		4		12			
2	Falling materials		3		3		9			
3	Manual handling		2		3		6			
4	Exposure to noise or fumes		3		2		6			
Control Measures Required										
1	Provide a safe designated area for the unloading of materials to happen.									
2	Ensure the driver knows a pre-planned access route for safe and easy unloading of materials.									
3	Ensure the public are kept separate from where the heavy machinery is operated.									
4	Ensure the ground is suitable and not uneven where unloading will happen, to ensure no material falls from the heavy machinery.									
Reassessment of Activity Hazards			Likelihood		Severity		Risk Level			
1	Heavy machinery		3		1		3			
2	Falling materials		2		1		2			
3	Manual handling		2		1		2			
4	Exposure to noise or fumes		2		1		2			
Name Position: Senior Health and safety officer			Signed			Date of Completion:				
Reviews		Key								
Review Date:	Likelihood	Severity		Severity of Injury	5	5	10	15	20	25
Reviewed by:	1 very unlikely 2 unlikely 3 likely 4 very likely 5 certainty	1 nuisance 2 minor 3 medical treatment 4 major 5 fatal	4		4	8	12	16	20	
Review Date :			3		3	6	9	12	15	
Reviewed by:			2		2	4	6	8	10	
Review Date :			1		1	2	3	4	5	
Reviewed by:			0		1	2	3	4	5	
Review Date :	Likelihood of Injury									
Reviewed by:	Low Risk		Medium Risk		High Risk					

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