

## Final Report

### Working Group 1 – Engineers

#### Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015.

##### Extract from CDM Regulations:

###### Principal Designer role:

A principal designer can be an organisation or individual who is appointed by the client to take the lead in planning, managing, monitoring and coordinating health and safety during the pre-construction phase (design and planning stage) of a project involving, or likely to involve, more than one contractor.

A principal designer is the designer as defined in the regulations with control over the pre-construction phase who has the relevant skills, knowledge and experience and where they are an organisation, the organisational capability to carry out all the functions of the role. However, they do not have to carry out actual design work on the project.

A principal designer has an important role in influencing how the risks to health and safety should be managed and incorporated into the wider management of a project. Design decisions taken during the pre-construction phase can have a significant effect on whether a project is delivered in a way that secures health and safety. The principal designer's role involves close cooperation with the client and principal contractor, and coordinating the work of others in the project team to ensure that significant and foreseeable risks are managed throughout the design process.

A principal designer must be appointed in writing by the client. The principal designer should be appointed by the client as early as possible in the design process, and where practicable, at the concept stage of the project.

##### WG1 experience of the Principal Designer role in practice:

###### Principal Designers must

- plan, manage, monitor and coordinate health and safety in the pre-construction phase. In doing so they must take account of relevant information (such as an existing health and safety file) that might affect design work carried out both before and after the construction phase has started
- help and advise the client in bringing together pre-construction information, and provide the information designers and contractors need to carry out their duties
- work with any other designers on the project to eliminate foreseeable health and safety risks to anyone affected by the work and, where that is not possible, take steps to reduce/control those risks
- ensure that everyone involved in the pre-construction phase communicates and cooperates, coordinating their work wherever required
- liaise with the Principal Contractor keeping them informed of any risks that need to be controlled during the construction phase

The Specialist Principal Designer is independent from each designer and contractor and can provide independent health and safety advice throughout the project to the client and each party in the clients team. Further complications arise if the project is to be procured on a design and build basis, where the design team are commonly novated by the client or directly appointed by the PC under their T&C's of their contract. In this scenario a direct appointment of a specialist Principal Designer (CDM) ensures the role remains independent. This brings benefits of avoiding potential conflicts of interest, enables greater emphasis on ensuring the PC is communicated with and consulted, brings greater emphasis on timely consideration of hazards and risk assessment etc.

Clients are in fact free to appoint their lead designers to the Principal Designer role, but only where that designer has the necessary skills and knowledge to fulfil the role and of course are willing to take the role. Often a concept designer(s) are appointed to create innovative solution and the CDM PD role is best covered by a separate appointment.