

PRESS RELEASE

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CIC-ConstructionSkills launches SiD - a major new health and safety initiative for designers

CIC-ConstructionSkills is calling on the industry's designers to adopt health and safety standards at the point of design. The Safety in Design (SiD) initiative will help to bridge the gap between designers and builders and could lead to a reduction in health and safety problems in the industry.

SiD provides minimum standards of knowledge and competence for designers so that they can work with health and safety in mind, leading to fewer delays, costs and, ultimately, accidents further down the line.¹ **The SiD Learning Aims and Standards of Competence** include the knowledge and competence needed to design buildings and structures that can be not only safely built, but also safely used and maintained. These Standards have huge implications for the construction industry.

Speakers at the launch of SiD on 19 April included Stuart Henderson, Chairman of CIC and Tim Gough, Director of SiD Ltd.

Keith Clarke, Chief Executive of Atkins, and Mark Poole, Construction Safety Specialist for BBC Property also spoke about the importance and benefits of the SiD initiative and their support for it.

Keith Clarke, Chief Executive of Atkins, and Chairman of SiD Ltd said:

“SiD is a tremendously important initiative that offers very real benefits to the construction industry. If health and safety is incorporated by designers in the early stages of projects there will not only be savings in time and money throughout the project but ultimately there will be fewer health and safety problems.”

Stuart Henderson Chairman of CIC said

“We are asking organisations within the construction industry to implement the SiD Learning Aims and Standards of Competence as an integral part of their own systems, to the benefit of all.”

The SiD Learning Aims and Standards have been developed by CIC in conjunction with SiD Limited, and supported by a steering group from industry bodies and institutions. They can be viewed on the CIC website at www.cic.org.uk

For further details contact the press office at CIC on 020 7399 7407 or email press@cic.org.uk

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Notes to the editor

1. The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 1994 (“CDM Regulations”) came into effect in April 1995. At the heart of these regulations (regulation 13) is a requirement on designers in the UK construction industry –to design out hazards in order to make buildings safer to construct, maintain and demolish. Clients of the construction industry are required to ensure that any designer they use is competent in this regard. However, until now there have not been any standards or benchmarked methods by which a designer can demonstrate competence.
2. CIC is the representative forum for the professional bodies, research organisations and specialist trade associations in the construction industry. It provides a single voice for professionals in all sectors of the built environment through its collective membership of 500,000 individual professionals and 25,000 firms of construction consultants.
3. Safety in Design Ltd is a not for profit company that exists to support its membership in a variety of ways. The main reason for its existence is to provide benchmarked standards for knowledge and competence for designers. SiD also gives information on industry initiatives such as industry led guidance on design for the built environment www.safetyindesign.org