A NEW VISION FOR APS

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The National CDM Awards return for their tenth year - it's gearing up to be the best one yet!

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APS and other industry experts met in February to tackle issues surrounding the CDM regulations in relation to the Principal Designer.

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For the lowdown on student innovation, how APS are working with students and for more information on our awards visit our student section.
Training from NHBC

Our training is open to both NHBC registered and non-registered house builders alike.

We offer informed and impactful training courses, designed using our unique insight into the quality of new homes and delivered by our team of experienced and trained professionals.

39,200 training hours delivered in 2016.

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A NEW VISION FOR APS
APS CEO, Lesley McLeod, introduces our new look and feel publication and rounds up all that’s going on within the APS.

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H&S: BEYOND THE PHYSICAL
Mental-health in the construction industry should never be a taboo issue. Find out what’s going on to tackle this.

10 YEARS RECOGNISING EXCELLENCE IN CONSTRUCTION HEALTH AND SAFETY
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Welcome to your new look membership magazine: Project Safety Matters. This publication aims to be – as it says on the cover – the voice of good practice in design and construction health and safety risk management.

**WE WANT** to create a new vision for APS with you in mind. To make the magazine more about you, we’ll have more of your views and voices.

Each edition – four a year with monthly e-bulletins in-between – will feature: regional activities so you’ll get a flavour of what our vast and far-flung family is doing, news and support for professionals just starting out in health and safety in construction, guest articles and so much more.

We are always blown away by the skills and talent on display each year at our annual awards, but since it’s our ten year anniversary, it’s going to be an even bigger celebration. Entry is now open and the search is on for this year’s winners...more about this later.

Naturally, we will retain the best of the old. In each magazine, there will be news and developments from across the construction industry and regular articles from our own legal-eagle Gillian Birkby.

But we also want to know more about what you are doing. So, in each edition, we aim to showcase the work of one of our members. If you would like to share your experiences, we would like to hear from you. And, because you collaborate with a range of other professionals, we are going to hear from our friends and experts in the industry too.

But, more than anything, we want Project Safety Matters to be a good read. I hope you will join the conversation which we will carry on through LinkedIn and our other social media channels.

We are only here because of you, so please let us know what you think!

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**APPOINTMENTS**

Colin Seditas, Policy and Standards Manager

Colin joined APS in January 2017. He worked at the Health and Safety Executive for over 16 years, firstly as an operational inspector (working across a number of industry sectors) before moving into a national policy unit, where he developed HSE policy and coordinated the work of HSE’s operational construction teams involved with licensed asbestos work. Before joining APS, Colin was Technical and Development Manager for a Trade Association representing specialist construction contractors. He is interested in leadership and management systems and has studied organisational analysis and the use of systems tools for strategic change. Colin lives in central Edinburgh. When not working he enjoys too many hobbies and is a master of none. These include a variety of sports (cycling, badminton and table tennis in particular), music (piano, bass and guitar), reading and some awful attempts at writing.

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**NEWS**

**APS CERTIFIED MEMBERSHIP**

- It’s been a busy time for APS HQ as existing IMaPs members (pre-October 2015) sought to complete the specialist online exams (Occupational Health and one other) to attain CMaPS status before the December 31 deadline (later extended to 31 January to accommodate the festive season). This route to CMaPS status is now closed.

Existing IMaPs members can still progress to Certified Membership providing they pass four online specialist knowledge exams (Occupational Health and three others) and complete an application form confirming they meet the criteria for this register, currently 22 points.

New APS applicants can achieve CMaPS status by:

- Submission of application form (with supporting evidence) – minimum of 22 credit points required
- Pass the online CDM2015 exam
- Pass four online specialist knowledge exams (Occupational Health and three others)
- Undertake a telephone interview
- Pay their first-year subscription

* n/a as already addressed in IMaPs application process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Certified Membership Criteria</th>
<th>Existing IMaPs members</th>
<th>New applicants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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APS IN ACTION
Over the coming months we will be:
• reviewing the content and delivery of our existing online exams
• rolling out new specialist subjects
• working with training providers to review our approach to accredited courses
• refreshing the way we support regional groups
• developing a new range of Fact Sheets
• reinvigorating the APS Practice Notes series
In the background we continue to work closely with the key stakeholders who are important to our members. We continue to progress the aims described in the APS 2015-2019 strategy document, with the stakeholders who are associated with our APS members.

SURVEY REPORTS ON THE STATE OF THE DEMOLITION INDUSTRY
• The NFDC’s annual survey suggests an air of uncertainty is present across the wider sector.

Only 7% of demolition businesses say that they will be expanding to meet higher demand this year (against 36% in the last survey). Undoubtedly, there are some bullish performers around, but there is also plenty of concern about “ever shrinking markets with ever smaller margins”. When asked about the impact of Brexit over the next five years, the survey was, understandably, inconclusive with an even split between positive respondents, those forecasting market turmoil and those who believe it is not possible to make any predictions at this early stage.

REACHING OUT TO SME CONSTRUCTION FIRMS
• In February HSE are hosting an event in Wishaw, aimed at small to medium sized construction companies. It is encouraging to see the HSE engaging with the construction industry at all levels: the event will help smaller construction contractors address a number of topics, such as working at height and health issues.

This event is directly linked to two of the key themes in HSE’s new strategy, designed to (a) engage with SMEs and (b) simplify risk management. One of the goals for CDM 2015 was to tackle the gap that has developed between the larger organisations with more sophisticated management systems and the smaller-scale players in the industry.

THREE CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES FINED AFTER FALL
• Three companies have been prosecuted in Essex, following very serious injuries to a worker who fell 7m through a fragile roof. There was no protective equipment in place to stop Rafal Myslim falling onto a concrete floor, striking a number of pipes within the building on the way down. The case serves as a reminder of the need for appropriate competencies, planning, organisation and communication between those responsible for construction work. The harshest sentence was suffered by Ernest Doe and Sons who, fined nearly £400,000 for failing to discharge their CDM duties to oversee the project.

Background
Ernest Doe had been asked to replace a warehouse roof. Lacking the experience in this field, Ernest Doe subcontracted the work to Balsham Buildings, who planned how the roof should be replaced before subcontracting the actual work to Strong Clad.

Balsham Buildings and Strong Clad admitted breaching the Work at Height Regulations. Balsham failed to properly plan the work at height, receiving a fine of £45,000 (and £3,000 costs). Strong Clad were fined £7,000 (with £3,000 costs). Ernest Doe & Sons admitted breaching the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. They were fined £360,000 and ordered to pay £10,000 in costs.
(Source HSE press release)
WHAT’S HAPPENING IN THE REGIONS

Hi, I’m Rosalind Grozier and I am the Regional Communications Officer at APS; a new post dedicated to working with the APS regional committees to provide your local service.

This includes your local CPD events. So you don’t miss out, we’ll be keeping you up to date in this magazine on what’s coming up in your area. We’ll also have interviews with speakers, practitioners, members and regional committee members.

Although it’s only the end of February, there’s already a really interesting programme of local CPD events emerging from across the country. Scotland East held an event looking at the health aspect of health and safety and we’ve included an article from occupational hygienist Helen Pearson, the speaker. North west England region considered what a good Construction Phase Plan looks like. More here on that too.

The branches are all run by committees – 16 of them across the UK – who are all volunteers. I’m here to help them get information out about what’s happening in the regions; help make it happen and help join up the work they do so we provide you with a really good service.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN YOUR AREA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16 March</td>
<td>Health and safety aspects of photovoltaic solar panels, Glasgow</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 March</td>
<td>Site visit to Barratt residential construction site, Falkirk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 March</td>
<td>Meet the new Policy and Standards Manager, Colin Seditas, Edinburgh</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

To book go to www.aps.org.uk/events

DATES TO WATCH OUT FOR

We’ll email to let you know when you can book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>16th March</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Fire strategy in detail</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th April</td>
<td>Yorkshire</td>
<td>CDM legal update</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18th May</td>
<td>London</td>
<td>Logistics</td>
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</table>

KEEP UP-TO-DATE

There are local CPD events coming up all the time, so keep an eye on www.aps.org.uk/events

IN FEBRUARY Graham Leech, Chair, North West England region gave a talk in Liverpool on what makes a good Construction Phase Plan. 30 people attended and were given both the advice and skills to keep the CPP concise and relevant. Another key recommendation was for the Principal Designer and the Principal Contractor to get together as early as possible during the pre-construction phase to use that time to work out the risks and constraints before construction actually begins.

Delegates took part in an open-forum discussion after Graham’s presentation.
Avoiding the Stereotypes

All organisations, to varying extents, exist and prosper because they take risks. Every day organisations make critical decisions about the risks they actively want to pursue: Will they tender for a particular contract? Invest in a new production line? Decide to out-source a service or function?

Keeping people healthy and safe can be seen as a risk to be managed or an opportunity to be embraced to help you achieve your goals and objectives. Whatever your view of health and safety, businesses can flounder if they get the balance wrong, hamstringing themselves either with incidents or unnecessarily complex procedures.

Usually Waterman are called on because the client:

- Wants an expert opinion from an independent organisation about how the client is meeting the ambitions and standards they set for themselves (ranging from legal compliance to breaking the mould).
- Wants help understanding how legislation and guidance applies to their specific business.
- Know what they need to do and how they are doing. They simply need a partner to help them put it into practice, e.g. by training their staff or helping them understand why they are encountering, or how to manage, a specific problem.
- Need specialist Principal Designer Training or support. Someone to bounce ideas off and ensure they are heading in the right direction.

Whatever you want or need, our ambition is to provide a pragmatic, reliable, timely and solution-focussed service. We have a genuine passion for the subject and understand the difference between cost and value. It’s what keeps our clients coming back to us time and time again.

Waterman provides a health and safety consultancy service that is recognised by our clients for its professional delivery, technical accuracy and value for money. Health and safety legislation is becoming more onerous and complex than ever before and choosing the right expertise is essential. Waterman aims to be the clients’ first point of contact for any Health and Safety issue. We help protect our clients business, assets, people and reputation by ensuring safety is managed with same rigour as any other key business objective.

Please contact Tara Fry if you would like further information, tara.fry@watermangroup.com, 07767208416.
Helen Pearson is an occupational hygienist with Viridis Safety Ltd, health, safety and occupational hygiene consultants and trainers. In early February, along with her colleague Rupert Balfry, she joined Scotland East members to explain how good occupational hygiene can prevent damage to the long term health of workers. In this Q and A Helen tells us what an occupational hygienist is, why occupational hygiene is often overlooked and why it is so important.

What exactly is an ‘occupational hygienist’ and how does this field differ from occupational health?

Simply put, an occupational hygienist’s aim is worker health protection. We observe how workers interact with materials, equipment and the workplace as a whole, and then we identify hazards that have the potential to harm worker health, like dust or fumes, solvents, noise and hand-arm vibration. Once that’s done we assess the level of exposure to find out the risk posed and finally we determine how to eliminate or control exposure to minimise the risk of workers suffering from occupational illness.

Of course, in practice, occupational hygiene and occupational health work together; occupational hygiene providing the risk assessment and preventative measures whilst occupational health provides the diagnostic aspects of worker health protection focusing on the worker and looking for symptoms and conditions caused by their work.

How does occupational hygiene fit in with CDM 2015?

There are certain health and safety related responsibilities in CDM 2015. Unfortunately all too often when we say ‘health and safety’, we are only really thinking ‘safety’. Our role is to try and change this perception. We work within the framework of CDM2015 asking that duty holders consider risk avoidance where possible, evaluate the risks that can’t be avoided and put in place proportionate measures to control them at source.

How do deaths due to work-related health problems compare to deaths due to accidents?

Only 1 out of every 100 occupational deaths is due to a fatal accident with the other 99 being the result of occupational illness. The fatal accident rate is approximately 150 each year but the HSE estimates that at least 13,000 people die from occupational diseases each year.

What approach do you use to prevent this?

As any occupational hygienist will tell you “it depends”. Broadly, you identify the health hazard, work out the level of risk, work out the most appropriate way to control it, and select an appropriate way to check that your control measures result in an acceptable level of risk.

Ideally, risk is reduced mainly by using robust engineering controls with these controls being enhanced by improving staff awareness, using PPE and improving management controls.

Give some examples of changing bad practice to good practice you’ve overseen?

I conducted an exposure study that was requested because some urine test results indicated that workers were being exposed to significant amounts of isocyanates during the application of insulating foam.

MORE INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

The business case

Lung disease and occupational cancers
Breathe freely: Information and tools from BOHS addressing the causes of occupational lung disease in the construction industry. www.breathefreely.org.uk

No Time To Lose: Information and resources from IOSH to increase awareness of occupational cancers. www.iosh.co.uk/NTTL/Home/About-NTTL.aspx

Find an occupational hygienist
Information about the role and a directory of occupational hygienists: www.bohs.org

General information and reference
COSHH essentials on the HSE website: www.hse.gov.uk/coshh/basics.htm

Occupational Health (Pocket Consultant), Harrington, Gill, AW and Gardiner (ISBN: 9781405122214)
The study found that some exposure was due to inhalation but the majority of the exposure resulted from poor practices that led to absorption through the skin. Improvements to materials handling, mixing and equipment cleaning procedures led to a significant reduction in total exposure with subsequent urine testing showing that risk to workers had been reduced significantly.

I also did an assessment of exposure to anti-caking powders in a factory, at the same time as an inspection of the existing local exhaust ventilation system. We demonstrated that the existing control measures were inadequate for the dust levels present. The company is now investing in a more suitable ventilation system.

**Why does the ‘safety’ aspect of health and safety get the attention, rather than the ‘health’ aspect?**

It’s about time and visibility. When an injury occurs, it is immediately visible to employees, management and everyone else. With more serious incidents there will be an investigation and changes made to prevent reoccurrence.

With occupational diseases, it takes time before symptoms begin to present so this immediacy is not there. The connection between the disease and exposure to the hazard is not nearly so visible.

We really need to ‘treat health like safety’ and focus more resources on it. The cost of occupational disease to business, and to broader society, is many thousands of times greater than occupational injury but we continue to focus on injury prevention.

**How do you convince or motivate employers to spend money on preventative practices?**

Good worker health can save a significant amount of money for a business. The cost of lost work-days and treatment resulting from occupational illness runs into billions each year with UK business bearing most of this cost. It isn’t just lost time and sick pay, it is also about extra wages and overtime, labour and recruitment costs, lower production, medical bills and potentially fines and compensation pay-outs.

It’s important for employee relations. Healthy workers are more engaged, motivated and productive and they stay in their jobs longer. If you look after your employees your employees will look after your business.

Social Responsibility is increasingly fundamental to many companies’ business models. Potential customers and investors often now use a company’s social responsibility – or lack of – as a way of selecting them.

It’s also about reputation as building and safeguarding your organisation’s reputation is closely linked to the financial, employee and social responsibility factors. A good reputation is essential to the survival of a business. It is difficult to build and very easy to lose.

Worker health protection must also be central to an organisation’s vision and goals as good occupational hygiene equals good business.

**Things are changing, but slowly. What, in your opinion, is the key area or areas we should be focussing on?**

Start treating health like safety. Organisations should review their existing safety programmes and adopt a similar strategy for worker health protection by identifying hazards, assessing risks and eliminating or controlling exposure. Regular reviews are needed, to make sure control measures continue to protect workers, as well as effective health surveillance programmes which act as a double check.

Larger organisations can help by supporting their sub-contractors to review their working practices and develop health protection programmes. This really helps to improve health protection within the whole supply-chain.

### Key Causes of Occupational Ill-Health

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Causes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Occupational cancers</td>
<td>Exposure to asbestos, respirable crystalline silica, solar radiation, diesel engine exhaust emissions along with other factors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease</td>
<td>Exposure to fumes, chemicals and dust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Silicosis</td>
<td>Exposure to respirable crystalline silica</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asbestosis</td>
<td>Exposure to asbestos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupational asthma</td>
<td>Exposure to isocyanates, welding fumes and wood dust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hearing loss</td>
<td>Noise exposure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vibration-related diseases <em>e.g.</em> vibration white finger</td>
<td>Using vibration tools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Skin diseases</td>
<td>Using detergents, wet working and exposure to allergens and irritants</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work related stress and musculo-skeletal disorders</td>
<td>Poor working conditions and practices</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
A NATIONAL ROUND UP OF:

MARCH

01
APS NATIONAL CPD
The Arora Hotel, Crawley
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

22
APS NATIONAL CPD
Cottons Hotel and Spa, Knutsford
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

23
APS NATIONAL CPD
Holiday Inn Leeds Garforth
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

06
APS NATIONAL CPD
The Village Hotel, Aberdeen
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

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APS NATIONAL CPD
Holiday Inn, Edinburgh
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

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APS NATIONAL CPD
Cottons Hotel and Spa, Knutsford
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

25
APS NATIONAL CPD
Exeter Racecourse and Conference Centre
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

APRIL

02
APS NATIONAL CPD
Jurys East Midlands Airport
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

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APS NATIONAL CPD
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(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

03
APS NATIONAL CPD
The Arden Hotel, Solihull
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

04
APS NATIONAL CPD
Double Tree by Hilton, Milton Keynes
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

08
APS NATIONAL CPD
Marriott Gosforth Park
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training

21
APS NATIONAL CPD
Copthorne Cardiff
(AM): The Duty to Manage Asbestos
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MAY

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(PM): Construction Lead (paint and dust) hazards training
AWARDS, EVENTS AND CPD

31
JULY
APS AWARDS SUBMISSION DEADLINE

APS NATIONAL AWARDS SHORTLISTS ANNOUNCED

JUNE

SEPTEMBER

05
APS NATIONAL CONFERENCE, CARDIFF

JULY

05
OCTOBER

NATIONAL AWARDS CEREMONY, LONDON

APS NATIONAL CPD
Winter programme will be open for booking, sessions will commence in September – December
The winner will demonstrate both leadership and innovation in consideration of project Health and Safety at either pre-construction or construction phases to produce new schemes, tools, processes or actions that safeguard against ill health and/or injury. The judges will look at the entrants overarching health and safety management systems; consider health and safety during the design stage; and assess how the applicant has demonstrated sustainable and effective risk management.

Project of the Year
The judges will be looking for a project that embodies the ethos of the CDM Regulations and beyond: fully integrated design teams, strong client leadership, and detailed involvement of the Principal Designer and Contractor. Hazards and risks need to have been highlighted, considered and if possible dealt with during the design process. Buildability, maintainability and usability must be at the forefront with client satisfaction on the final scheme a prerequisite! This category is open to small, medium and large projects.

Principal Designer of the Year
The Principal Designer is a role created under the CDM Regulations 2015. The judges will be looking for an individual or firm that encompass all of the duties this role entails but also focuses that little bit extra on the principles of the regulations. They should be able to: show how they were fully engaged; add value to the whole process; understand issues surrounding design risk management, buildability and maintainability and have some involvement in industry wide initiatives.

Client of the Year
Judges are looking for a construction client that has shown clear consistent leadership and commitment to core CDM principles on one or preferably several projects. These

MEET THE JUDGES
The APS CDM Awards 2017 judging panel includes representatives from:

- The Association for Project Safety
- Health and Safety Executive
- Institution of Civil Engineers
- Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists
- NBS
- International Institute of Safety and Risk Management
- A Working Well Together Regional Committee Chair
- IOSH Construction Group
- Representative from The Institution Of Structural Engineers, Health and Safety Panel

THE 2017 CATEGORIES ARE
- Health and Safety
- Project of the Year
- Principal Designer of the Year
- Client of the Year
- Principal Contractor of the Year
- BIM Project of the Year
- Consultancy of the Year
- Health and Safety Innovation
- Judges Awards for the Health and Cooperation

THE APS NATIONAL AWARDS ARE BACK FOR 2017
ENTRIES OPEN ON 2ND MARCH 2017

The 10th edition of the APS National CDM Awards is set to be the biggest and best yet. Judged by leading industry figures and the Health and Safety Executive, the awards are a demonstration of excellence in design and construction health and safety risk management.
principles include clear and considered project briefs, ensuring the provision of full and relevant pre-construction information, strong leadership of the design team with health and safety set as a key driver. Clients who have been actively involved in encouraging and rewarding excellence, and who have embraced the ethos of CDM 2015 will be acknowledged for their leadership. Submissions from third parties are encouraged but must include endorsement from the client themselves.

THE AWARDS CELEBRATION
19th October 2017
Shortlisted candidates will be invited to attend a prestigious reception at the House of Commons, with an opportunity to meet their local MP and network with peers. Later that day will be the highly anticipated awards ceremony held at Gibson Hall, London where the winners in each category will be announced.

Principal Contractor of the Year
For this category the judges are looking for an organisation that undertakes the Principal Contractor role as defined under the CDM Regulations 2015. The PC will be an organisation that has health and safety at its core and be able to show how it is integrated into its business and ensures that its staff and supply chain are fully on board with this.

BIM project – Integrating H&S design risk management with BIM
This category is looking for companies or projects that are using digital processes (Building Information Modelling) to dramatically improve the design, delivery and operation of built assets. Judges are particularly looking for teams who can demonstrate the effective use and benefits of integrated and interoperable BIM solutions that reduce cost, time, and/or risk to the benefit of the client and others without detriment to others. Projects may be in the advanced stages of design, under construction or in full operation. Submissions should highlight how the adoption of collaborative digital processes have dramatically improved planning, design, fabrication, construction and/or operation of built facilities or infrastructure. Entries should demonstrate the use of best practice or new forms of collaboration or partnering, information sharing, innovative new tools/methods and processes, and should describe how these have/will deliver a wide variety of stakeholder benefits over the lifecycle of the asset.

Consultancy of the Year
The applicant should be a construction consultancy that has taken on board the roles of Principal designer and designer as noted in the CDM 2015 regulations. They should be able to show a full integration (along with continual review) of design risk management within their processes. Staff should be trained in all aspects of health and safety and show good knowledge of buildability, maintainability and usability issues.

The consultancy should have at its core an active and integrated health and safety policy that promotes the health objectives of the industry.

Health and Safety Innovation Award
This category is for those innovative projects/products/processes within the fields of design and construction. They should be new, something that could be utilised throughout the industry and not simply good practice. The judges are looking for submissions that cover reasons for the innovation, its research and development and its testing in the practical world.

WHAT 2016 WINNERS SAY:
Client of the Year Winner 2016
“We would definitely enter again. The awards have opened our eyes that what we do is recognised. We are doing what we feel is natural and right in considering Health and Safety. To be recognised for what we do as a daily job is wonderful”. Ray Reynolds, Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust Facilities.

Principal Designer of Year 2016
“We’re delighted to have won, we work with fantastic clients. The collaborative working we’ve done has led to this and we are thrilled” Miriam Abbott, Arcadis

Consultancy of the Year 2016
“We’re really proud to be at the pinnacle of APS Awards. We presented a really interesting project with a range of complicated and complex issues. Alan Herbert, Capita.”

TO ENTER...
Start your online submission today at www.aps.org.uk/enter-the-awards
What made you enter the CDM Awards?

Having submitted an award previously and gained success from the experience, I felt it important to submit a further entry for a different category, as winning a National CDM Award commands a high level of respect. I attended the awards ceremony previously and was really impressed by the event – it was a great evening – and so I wanted to be in with a chance of winning again to attend the ceremony.

How has winning a CDM Award benefited you, your employer and your career?

I have benefitted personally as it fulfilled an ambition. It has also demonstrated the level of commitment I have to what I do.

My business (Abbey Construction Consultants Ltd) has also benefited; we are keen to advertise the fact that I have achieved the CDM Coordinator of the Year working on various projects. This enforces a high level of confidence within the project team and demonstrates our commitment to CDM.

Personally, I have been asked to speak at various functions on the subject of CDM which, I consider to be a great honour and a real boost to both my business and career.

What was your experience of entering the Awards like?

I was surprised at how simple it was to collate all the information for my entry: APS provided an easy to follow set of instructions and the team at APS were always on hand to provide advice and assistance throughout the whole process.
What was your experience of the Awards evening like?

The awards evening was superbly organised and to the highest standard. A short statement on each award followed by a short overview of the successful entry put a professional emphasis on each award. Just about every attendee offered their congratulations. I felt proud to be a member of APS and since winning the award my sense of pride has grown even further.

Would you recommend entering the Awards to other professionals?

I would recommend other professionals submit an entry for one of the awards because, if they have success, it will demonstrate that their work practice is to a high level. The accolade provides them with a greater confidence and will assist their business or employer going forwards by demonstrating that they commit to CDM, to their staff and to APS, playing their part in helping to make our industry safer for all construction workers.

What would you say to someone considering entering the Awards next year or even contemplating coming along to the Awards Evening this year?

I have attended many awards and can safely say that the APS awards evening is one of the best. You are made to feel welcome by everyone at the awards, not just the APS team. The evening also provides great opportunities for you to meet fellow professionals as well as create new friendships. Overall, it’s an experience you won’t forget and wouldn’t want to miss!

Our flagship event will be a gala evening filled with fizzy fun to celebrate the achievements of those in construction health and safety. The awards will showcase innovation and exemplary practice in design and construction health and safety risk management and highlight how this can cut the number of workers who lose their lives, suffer life-changing injuries or are affected by long term health problems, both physical and mental.

If you or someone you know would like to enter the 2017 Awards please take a look at www.aps.org.uk/national-cdm-awards-2016
WHY STUDENTS ARE THE FUTURE OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

APS President, Bobby Chakravarthy gives his thoughts on why students matter.

MEMBERS OF APS are traditionally members of other organisations, and this is because health and safety is often a secondary career path for some. Quite simply, this is because to deliver health and safety effectively, you require not only the relevant educational knowledge in this particular subject area, you also need the necessary practical and life skills as well as hands on project delivery experience to complement any educational qualifications you may have. For the above reasons, the health and safety profession, with particular reference to construction, has evolved organically as a specialist and often secondary career choice.

Having proficient health and safety professionals helps businesses to adopt ethical practices by ensuring their workers are carrying out their duties without a negative impact on their safety, health and wellbeing. We at APS believe that to effectively manage and get the best out of the design teams and deliver the aspirations of regulations effectively, you need to have the necessary skills, knowledge and experience (SKE) relevant to the project you are undertaking and someone without the correct understanding of the issues wouldn’t be as effective or add any real value to the project process.

The above statement doesn’t relinquish APS’ responsibility in educating and influencing the future of construction industry professionals. Quite the opposite – we believe we can only create a fundamental change in attitude towards the subject of health and safety by making sure future generations have a better understanding of the subject right from the beginning of their academic pathway. We also believe this is an essential route to fill the knowledge and skills gap in the profession at an earlier stage, often resulting in a reduction in the cost of construction delivery.

The main reason I chose to specialise in health and safety came down to one simple fact. I had an ethical desire to help, inspire and protect the construction industry workforce. If like me, students have a strong moral compass, want to forge a career in a reasonably well paid profession, and make a real difference to people’s lives, then H&S should be considered a viable option.

APS is working in collaboration with various construction membership bodies, academic institutions and other industry stakeholders who have a direct influence over education provision. This is to ensure students and graduates undertaking training or education in construction related courses have a level of understanding of the fundamentals of the subject and be better able to understand the impact of their decision on others.

APS at all levels including the staff, directors and individual members are actively involved in this initiative. We are also looking at delivering health and safety in a more creative way with the use of processes such as BIM to better connect with the student demographic. We have two main aims. 1) To ensure that we are relevant to the future generation of built environment professionals and 2) We want to have a hand in promoting health and safety as an exciting career path for students.

The main reason I chose to specialise in health and safety came down to one simple fact; I had an ethical desire to help, inspire and protect the construction industry workforce. If like me, students have a strong moral compass, want to forge a career in a reasonably well paid profession, and make a real difference to people’s lives, then H&S should be considered a viable option.

We believe practical on the job experience could help counterbalance the stigma sometimes associated with general health and safety and make it more attractive. For this reason we are watching and monitoring the new government apprenticeship levy very closely; when this is implemented, it could have the potential to transform the landscape exponentially.

APS is also currently investing time and effort to set up the organisation’s first Academic and Research Group. This will bring together scholars from various academic institutions who are currently leading/undertaking academic research and development in construction health and safety and will provide them with a platform to share and explore existing and new topics. It will also put them in contact with a pool of experienced construction professionals from a wide range of professions and backgrounds to tap into for any of the research initiatives and outcomes.

We believe that the work we are doing with academic institutions will help assist us in delivering our strategic objective of collaboration, training and education which is core of what we do at APS.

We offer Free Student Memberships: www.aps.org.uk/membership/student-membership-0
CREATING AND SUPPORTING
STUDENT INNOVATORS

Who is SIE?

The Scottish Institute for Enterprise (SIE) works with Scotland’s Higher and Further Education Sectors to empower, nurture and support the next generation of innovative change makers. Most recognise SIE as the Institution that works with students to explore the option of new venture creation upon leaving University, but that is simply not the case. We work with all students, helping them to consider innovation. We help build confidence by teaching the principles of design thinking – once learnt – these skills can be extremely useful once they make the transition into the world of work. Ultimately we encourage students to display the tenacity and drive to make things happen.

Who do SIE work with?

SIE works with a range of students, from a range of disciplines including the Built Environment. We help to equip them with the necessary soft skills, leadership and innovation skills to make their mark in the industry. There is nothing more satisfying for me as Director of Innovation, than seeing before my very eyes, students beginning to recognise that even though they are entering a profession they don’t need to settle for working in that industry, they can use innovation to help change it for the better.

Students are intrinsically motivated to be innovative

Over the six years that I have spent with SIE, I have observed that what lies at the heart of this shift in mind-set is that students are intrinsically motivated to be innovative and to use their knowledge to help change the world. Getting students to flex their creative muscles is less about the carrot and stick approach and more about providing meaningful opportunities to be innovative, whether that is creating an app that could help construction worker on site or be it to revolutionise a process that could increase productivity for their colleagues.

How SIE helps students to unlock their potential

So how do we create the next generation of students who will have an impact? At SIE we work with our partners in Universities and Colleges to provide opportunities for students to develop their creativity and problem-solving skills across all disciplines and levels. We offer competitions, workshops and exploration days to give students the opportunity to work on real-life industry challenges. We also look to encourage students to look for opportunities to be innovative in their everyday life, for example, we encourage students to consider their course work as a time to shine and should never be viewed as ‘just another’ assignment to be handed in or product to be exhibited at a degree show.

Working with APS

SIE is delighted to be helping to promote the Association of Project Safety (APS) Student Designer Awards. We believe in the competition’s vision and aim and feel our strategies align perfectly.

As well as encouraging students to enter the APS competition, the SIE Senior Innovation and Business Advisors will be on hand to identify and support students with some of their best ideas to improve the construction industry. They will be encouraged to explore their ideas’ potential and take the next steps towards realisation.

Final thoughts

When a student enters a competition, for them it means taking a perceived risk. For example, their opinion may be discounted our undermined.

It may seem ironic to end an article for the APS with the following quote about risk. However, I feel that it sums up our respective roles about student innovation:

“Be careful to take risks. Time is genetic. Today is the child of yesterday and the parent of tomorrow. The work you produce today will create your future.”

– Bruce Mau: The Incomplete Manifesto for Growth

We are delighted to be working with the APS to be the ‘parents of tomorrow’ and to provide the time and opportunity to help students be innovative and unlock their true potential.

STUDENT

www.sie.ac.uk

SCOTTISH INSTITUTE FOR ENTERPRISE

The Scottish Institute for Enterprise is the national organisation for the promotion and support of enterprise and entrepreneurship in Scotland’s students. SIE works with Universities and Colleges to champion entrepreneurship education and help their students start new innovative businesses. SIE provides free one-to-one advice, enterprise workshops and business competitions supported by a national team of student interns and business advisors. SIE is supported by the Scottish Funding Council and Scottish Enterprise and is part of the Scotland CAN DO framework.

www.sie.ac.uk
APS NATIONAL STUDENT DESIGNER AWARDS 2017

APS is pleased to announce that our National Student Designer competition is back for 2017, with a total prize fund of £6,500.

THE APS National Student Designer Award is intended to encourage continuous improvement in design and recognise excellence in Design and Construction Risk Management within the architectural professions. The awards are open to all construction related design students. The Awards scheme is intended to introduce them to the issues of Buildability, Maintainability and Usability, and their responsibilities as Designers in terms of Construction Health and Safety Risk Management.

The Awards
A total prize fund of £6,500 will be awarded as follows:

• 1st Prize – £2,000
• 2nd Prize – £1,500
• 3rd Prize – £1,000
• Innovation Award – £1,000
• Technical Excellence Award – £1,000

The Brief
Students should outline how their thought process, during the development of their design project, contributed to the elimination of risks in the maintenance and eventual deconstruction of the building. Where risks cannot be reasonably eliminated, students should consider innovative ways in which the risks can be reduced/managed. Further advice, regarding issues that students should consider when preparing their designs, is given on the APS website.

Meet the Judges
The judging panel is made up of representatives from:
• The Association for Project Safety
• Health and Safety Executive
• Chartered Institute of Architectural Technologists
• Butler and Young Consulting

The Awards Ceremony
Shortlisted Students and their tutor will be invited to a reception at the House of Commons. Here they will have the chance to meet with their local MP and meet with other students and industry peers. Later that evening they will also be invited to attend the prestigious awards ceremony where the winners will be announced.

MEET THE SPONSOR

The APS National Student Designer Awards are kindly sponsored by Butler and Young Consulting. “We sponsor the Student Awards to invest in the future talent of our industry. It’s always great to see the enthusiasm and excitement the students have to turn their ideas into realistic proposals.”

SIMON WARD, STUDENT AWARD WINNER

“It’s brilliant to have won. I feel completely honoured. Thanks to APS for the event at the House of Commons and the evening event. I got to meet a number of award sponsors and clients. I would encourage anyone to apply. My university opened the doors and the money attached to winning is always great.”

HOW TO ENTER

For the full brief, examples of previous winners and to start your online submission, visit www.aps.org.uk/enter-the-student-awards
A NEED FOR COMPETENT GRADUATES

APS got talking to Dr Andrew Roberts (Dean of Education and Students, College of Physical Sciences and Engineering School at the Welsh School of Architecture) of Cardiff University. He has given us the lowdown of the importance of health and safety education.

THE SMALLEST design decisions, even during the early stages of the plan of work, can lead to dramatic consequences in terms of the health, safety and security of those who will construct, maintain and occupy a building. It is therefore essential that those who are responsible for the design and management of construction are able to recognise the possible implications of their decision making and as educators we have a responsibility to ensure that our students are able to do just that as part of their preparation for professional life.

Careful consideration is needed in terms of how the building will be made, and how the building will perform. By asking students to think carefully through the stages of construction, and to imagine the building process they can get a better understanding as to what might go wrong. In a similar way the students need to think about how the building will be used and maintained – again what might go wrong? A risk assessment of this type is a reflective process, which not only identifies the risks, but helps the student to think creatively about how such risks might be minimised.
PROFESSIONAL BODIES from across the construction sector met at a pan-industry summit at the Royal Institution in London on the 8th February to discuss the skills, knowledge and experience needed by the built environment professionals to effectively lead construction design and management and help cut the number of deaths, injuries and incidences of ill-health. The 2nd Pan-Industry Summit highlighted shared common goals and the importance of the industry working together to bring about the best outcomes for workers across the sector and occupied buildings.

The summit agreed to continue working together to cut the number of deaths from occupational cancers (around 100 a week) and the number of fatal accidents – still running at around one per week – life-changing injuries and incidences of long term physical and mental ill-health, directly attributed to unsafe working practices.

Delegates acknowledged that while they each brought their own unique perspectives to the table, there was a strong commitment to sharing good practice so that all projects can be delivered safely and to a high standard of quality, sustainability and inclusion. When it comes to interpreting the CDM regulations the primary focus should always remain the same; the right skills, knowledge and experience should always be paramount. The summit’s aims were supported by the Health and Safety Executive with their strategy #HelpGBworkwell.

Lesley McLeod, CEO of APS said, “APS would like to express our gratitude to those who attended the second CDM Pan Industry Forum 2. We would like to thank our delegates for their contributions, and our speakers, without whom, the event would not have been possible.”
APS president Bobby Chakravarthy (below) said:

“It is hoped that this Summit will help the industry shape and share good practice in the design and construction health and safety risk management sector. The issues that arose certainly made the industry pause for reflection.”

Chair of the Pan Industry Steering Group, John Nielsen (below) said:

“APS was overwhelmed by the commitment shown by delegates in tackling the issues raised by the CDM regulations, specifically around the Role of the Principal Designer.”

PROFESSIONAL BODIES PRESENT AND IN SUPPORT OF THE SUMMIT INCLUDED:

- APS
- Building Research Establishment
- Building Services Research and Information Association
- CABE
- CIAT
- CIBSE
- CIC
- CIHT
- CIOB
- Construction Industry Training Board
- Faithful and Gould
- Fladgate LLP
- Hawkins\Brown
- HSE
- ICE
- IIRSM
- Institute of Demolition Engineers
- IOSH
- IStructE
- Landscape Institute
- Multiplex Construction Europe
- Pinsent Masons
- RIBA
- RICS
- Skanska
- Temporary Works Forum
- Working Well Together
- York St John University,
- Leslie Clark Construction Consultants
- Citycore Ltd
- BESCA
- Transport for London
- Construction Clients Group
- National Rail

Over the coming weeks APS will collate opinion and feedback to all delegates and APS members on some of the issues raised and any next actions where required.

APS WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU

What do you think it takes to be a principal designer?
What is the base level of training required?
What soft skills do you think are required?
Email your thoughts to laura.salmond@aps.org.uk
Mental ill-health can affect anyone but, for sufferers, too often it can be a lonely and locked in place. This just makes the problem much worse. That is why APS has signed up to Mates in Mind an industry-wide initiative to tackle the issues around workplace mental health in the construction industry.

IT IS clearly in the interest of the industry to treat any long-standing health problem a worker may have. This is good for them and it is also good for business. The number of hours lost to illness far outweighs time lost to injury. The HSE estimates that, as a rule of thumb, any business should bank on workplace illness costing them each year around £1,000 for every single employee on the books. Just think what organisations could be doing with that money instead.

And mental health – like any other wellness programme – from avoidance of silica dust to wearing ear protectors – needs to be something we all own.

We still persistently refer to illnesses of the mind as if mental health was in some way different from any other form of health. It’s not. Anyone can be – and at any time around one in four UK adults are – fighting to regain full health from some form of mental illness.

As pressures mount to get building homes, roads and railways in an attempt to renew our national infrastructure we need to be mindful of the pressures we are placing on the people called upon to deliver the projects.

Research has found that the workers who are most stressed are not the guys and gals in the shiny suits and smart offices. They may have the client and the bankers breathing down their necks but they are also, to a far greater extent than the folks on the ground, in control of their own destiny. They can determine their own work patterns and where and how they deliver results. The workers on site, or in the drawing office, may have very little control over their day to day environment and, when the pressure is on to deliver the goods, this is often the place where stress is felt most keenly.

The construction sector also has a reputation for being full of Yorkie-bra eating men’s men, for being a bit blokey. And this can exacerbate the problem, placing additional barriers in the way instead of helping people who need it most. In a generally, male-dominated and still macho culture, too often people can be treated as if they were somehow or other to blame for being unwell.

As an aside, that is one of the reasons that APS, as a member of the Construction Industry Council, is actively involved on its diversity panel which seeks to break down barriers across the sector making construction a truly inclusive place to work. We will be highlighting some of the issues and work CIC is doing in this field in future issues.

But ‘real’ men don’t do weakness, or depression or stress. We talk of understanding and support but still, too often sufferers can feel vulnerable when they speak out. They certainly don’t talk about it down the pub. It can be hard to speak up.

But why not?

No one would expect anyone to turn up to work if they went down with measles or appendicitis. No illness gets better if it is ignored. We would all help – and employers would put in place ways to support – anyone with an obvious physical injury or illness.

But we need particularly to open our minds to mental ill-health and ways to help colleagues when they are suffering and brave enough to share their experiences. So, let’s wise up – out of mind cannot continue to be out of sight. If for no other reason, it could easily be me or you and the price is counted not just in costs to the business but the damage to individuals and their families. It’s time to take on the stigma – especially in an industry where perceived weakeness can be still be a challenge.

As an industry we need to get comfortable about talking about all aspects of health but especially mental health where it is too easy to get tongue-tied and awkward. Just asking a colleague if they are OK can be all it takes to make a positive difference – you don’t need to get all Oprah Winfrey on them.

It’s not wimpy to be unwell and APS members needed to think every bit as carefully about how we ensure positive mental health and well-being is promoted within the industry. With Mates in Mind we can take that first step.

If you, or someone you know, is affected by the issues covered in the Mates in Mind project you don’t have to struggle on alone. The industry is committed to supporting you but if you would rather talk to someone independent there are sources of free help available.

The Samaritans can be called free on 116 123 [for callers from the UK and Republic of Ireland]

The construction industry helpline is 0345 605 1956
What is personal protective equipment?

Personal Protective Equipment or PPE is a catch-all term that refers to a range of equipment designed to protect the user against health or safety risks at work. Examples of such equipment include eye protection, safety helmets, gloves, safety footwear or high-visibility clothing.

What laws apply when it comes to PPE?

The Personal Protective Equipment Regulations 2002 and the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended) detail the main requirements. Separate regulations cover hazardous substances such as asbestos and also radiation and noise.

How does PPE fit with broader safety measures?

Employers should encourage people to work safely and responsibly. Providing instructions, documented procedures and appropriate training and/or supervision are all ways in which employers can meet this requirement.

There will, however, always be circumstances where, even allowing for safe systems of work and engineering controls, risks remain. Personal protective equipment therefore exists to mitigate these risks. For example, splashes of corrosive liquids would pose danger to the eyes or skin which protective eyewear, gloves or clothing could address.

What do I need to do when it comes to PPE?

Personal protective equipment should only ever be used as a last resort – an employer should always seek to mitigate risks without resorting to other forms of control.

Where PPE is required an employer must provide this for employees free of charge and ensure that the equipment has been carefully chosen. Employees must also be trained to use the equipment properly and know how to detect and report faults.

In determining what PPE measures are appropriate an employer should carry out an audit to determine which members of staff are exposed to what kinds of risk. In carrying out such an audit you should seek to understand how long members of
staff are likely to be exposed to particular dangers and in what quantities – a small amount of corrosive liquid arguably requiring a different approach to a huge container, for example.

**What should I bear in mind when selecting PPE?**

The 2002 regulations stipulate that products should carry the CE marking so ensure that the equipment you select meets this requirement. You should also take care to ensure that multiple items can be used together without compromising their levels of protections (safety goggles and other kinds of protective headgear, for example, may not work well together). It is also important to provide equipment in a variety of sizes and fits where appropriate.

**What kinds of PPE should I consider?**

With appropriate PPE chosen you need to consider how to ensure it is properly cared for and stored. Think too about how you will maintain the equipment (stockpiling replacement parts or kit, for example) and codify who will be responsible and how you expect this to be carried out. Employees should also understand how to report faults, destruction or loss of equipment.

Needs and requirements will obviously change over time so with equipment in use make sure you diarise regular checks and reviews to ensure compliance and that the solution provided is fit for purpose. As workplace tasks evolve and new tasks are required there should be a process that exists to update PPE provision accordingly.

As a parallel exercise you should also consider what emergency equipment is required in the workplace. Like PPE, this should be selected carefully, maintained and regular training provided for those expected to use it.
When there is a major accident on a construction site, the first question of course is: “has anyone been injured?” After the fatalities and injuries have been dealt with, the next question is: “why?” “How did it happen?” Understandably, everyone wants to know exactly what went wrong, so that they can be sure the same mistake is not being made on their own sites, and avoid the risk of further death or injury.

However, sometimes it can take weeks or months of careful work to identify the exact cause of an accident. The superficial cause – the last straw if you like – is often fairly easy to spot, but the underlying causes may be harder to understand. Take a fairly recent example: the refurbishment of one side of the Dutch FC Twente’s stadium, also known as the Grolsch Veste Stadium. For us, the club is probably best known for the fact that Steve McClaren, ex-England manager and current manager of Derby County, worked in that position for FC Twente in 2012. For the Dutch, there is a darker memory: in July 2011, during the refurbishment works, a section of the roof collapsed unexpectedly: two people were killed and 16 more were injured.

There was at least one eye-witness, working in a neighbouring office block. “It collapsed with a huge noise like a house of cards”. The Dutch media reported that the accident happened when a crane drove into the structure or, possibly alternatively, that two support beams had buckled, causing the roof to collapse on top of a bank of seats behind one of the goals. The mayor of Enschede, where the stadium is situated, said at the time that it was not clear what had caused the accident.

Although those comments are interesting, they are not particularly helpful in working out how to avoid such an accident happening in the future. As you would expect, there was a detailed investigation of the incident and it appeared that the immediate cause of the accident was when a worker was instructed to start removing the temporary works holding up the roof. The collapse occurred almost immediately after he started to do so. So why was that instruction given, when the temporary works were obviously still needed in order to support the roof?

One rather surprising answer is that there was too much trust between all the organisations working on this project. Previously the same professional team, contractor and sub contractors had refurbished another of the stands at Grolsch stadium. They were therefore all used to working with each other on this type of structure. That knowledge and understanding, the fact that the various parties trusted each other because of their previous experience of working together, was in fact the cause of the problem. Some significant calculations had not been checked sufficiently thoroughly; an error had been made but no-one realised how crucial the temporary works were as a result, in holding the roof up.

The usual complaint in the construction industry is that every building is effectively a prototype, there is very little repetition and certainly it is unusual for exactly the same team of people to be working together even if there are two similar projects. There have been attempts to standardise construction materials and processes. This has been mainly, it has to be said, in an effort to reduce costs, although there can be health and safety benefits also, if everyone is working with known, tried and tested products. However, this tragedy illustrates that even on a project which appears to be virtually identical to one carried out by the same team a short time previously, it should not be assumed that the second project has therefore been de-risked and that all will go smoothly.

Members can email queries for consideration by the APS Legal Advice service to: info@aps.org.uk
Subject: Legal Advice
RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDANCE – PROPOSED CHANGES TO INDG163

Colin Seditas, APS Policy & Standards Manager gives his thoughts on the proposed changes to INDG163. HSE is proposing a change to the guidance on risk assessment. We should always be looking out for “over-complication”, misplaced bureaucracy and paperwork and the nature of the proposed amendments links two of HSE’s current strategic themes: “Managing risk well: simplifying risk management” and “Supporting small employers”.

‘NOOO! NOT more paperwork’ – I’m sure you’ll have heard it said up and down the country. You may have thought about it yourself at some point. Certainly the sentiment goes hand-in-hand with a view that risk assessment equals unnecessary red tape. This perception is reinforced when people end up simply cut-and-pasting generic assessments, turning health and safety into a box-ticking exercise. The danger is that this approach weakens efforts to establish sensible and effective risk control.

Proposed changes to INDG163 underline why the way we look at risk assessment may need to be reclaimed and re-shaped.

Let’s think about what it’s trying to achieve. The guidance is short, simple and targets smaller duty-holders. It attempts to show how risk assessment should just be business as usual and as natural as putting your hard hat on.

The process in INDG163 is well-trodden and familiar. An assessment identifies hazards and who might be harmed. It evaluates risks and considers further controls that may be necessary. Importantly, it requires duty holders to record significant findings.

The proposed revision adds two brief paragraphs:

• the first explains that no additional paperwork may be needed. A written, “record of risk assessment” may already be provided in existing documentation, such as standard procedures, site rules, training manuals and method statements. Where this is the case, there would be no purpose – and certainly no legal requirement – to reproduce this elsewhere; and

• the second acknowledges that some external partners – such as insurers, clients or contractors – may demand more detailed paperwork than the law requires. The HSE’s Myth Buster Challenge Panel is there for those times when duty holders think the demands are over-the-top and they are encouraged to get in touch for help.

The logical conclusion is that off-the-shelf risk assessment documents may serve little useful purpose, particularly where they address generic site risks and controls, that apply on all projects and are already covered by records of training, standard procedures etc. If we are going to the trouble of recording the significant new findings of an assessment, we’d expect it to get to grips with those issues that really are unique, unusual and important for the particular set of circumstances on a particular site / project.
Too often, ‘doing a risk assessment’ has come to mean producing a record, rather than being a meaningful tool for identifying practical, precise controls. Concentrating on what assessment is actually for is of vital importance.

At heart INDG163 – and the legal requirement introduced over 17 years ago – is a way of thinking about a given set of circumstances. It is about assessing situations accurately so appropriate and proportionate site controls are in place.

Risk assessment is not a formula for producing a record that merely pays lip-service to safety. If the proposals help change the balance it must be good for all concerned. Given the ‘custom and practice’ that has built up around risk assessment, we ought to be asking whether the new guidance goes far enough.

Teams with a mix of skills will assemble on the 17-19 March in Manchester to tackle ideas that will address 4 specific health & safety challenges that were highlighted by a Feedback Survey conducted by our APS members. The solution will be open sourced so that anyone with a keen interest in development can take the ideas generated during this Hack event and develop them further in the hopes that this will transform and revolutionise the sector.

**Why attend**

BIM and Health & Safety has been a sideline topic to date with clients, contractors and supply chains focused on mainstream BIM Level 2 implementation and delivery. This is about to change with the imminent release of PAS 1192-6 ‘Specification for collaborative sharing and use of structured hazard and risk information for health and safety’ which will outline new structured requirements for the production and collaborative sharing of health and safety information through a project life-cycle.

This will fundamentally change construction Health & Safety as we know it, making it intrinsic within our new digital processes, and through the power of new technologies revolutionise the way we safely design, construct, operate and maintain our future built environment. It’s therefore a great time to run a Construction Health & Safety hackathon and equally an exciting opportunity for us all to be involved in driving digital change in the wider construction industry.

**The Hackathon**

Following a Friday evening launch and drinks reception mixed construction and tech teams will form to explore four challenge topics identified through an APS institute membership survey. There will be a cross mix of construction, tech and gaming industry mentors on hand Saturday and Sunday morning to help develop your team’s ideas into potential, workable solutions and final presentations. Gaming and Virtual Reality equipment will be available for exploring or developing any interactive or immersive ideas and solutions, as well as general chill time use.

**What’s in it for you?**

It’s a great opportunity to develop new digital solutions & tools for construction Health & Safety in a relaxed and fun environment, where you can freely share your ideas and knowledge whilst acquiring some new skills. You will have access to the wider construction/tech industry network which could offer new and extended opportunities beyond the event itself. In addition to the fantastic prizes on offer winners will gain industry wide exposure through publication and potential development of the best ideas. Most importantly, we will ensure you are well looked after with free meals and a steady supply of energy drinks.

See you there

To find out the latest information on the challenge themes, programme and prize details go to [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aps-hack-construct-manchester-2017-registration-27419397155](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/aps-hack-construct-manchester-2017-registration-27419397155)

We look forward to seeing you at Madlab on the 17th March.

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THE PRESIDENT’S POSTSCRIPT

APS President, Bobby Chakravarthy rounds up our first edition of Project Safety Matters. We work in a very complex industry. The APS family is widely spread geographically, working on very different projects - in scale and even the nature of the work itself. My own practice deals with large and small projects and, from even the small sample of the eight other directors on the APS board, you’ll find people working on projects from roads to health.

AT THE sector’s recent pan-industry event in London - that features in the magazine - we heard from practitioners working in very different ways, coming to health and safety risk management by a variety of routes. This makes for a vibrant industry and healthy debate when professionals get together.

This is both strength and an opportunity.

The industry’s diversity underlies part of the challenge we face in tacking ill-health and injury as the tapestry of occupational competences in construction can overlap. APS members often belong to another body as well. This may be their parent membership organisation with APS adding invaluable support.

Architects or civil engineers, whose first degree is in that particular, broader discipline, may come to APS for help with specific projects or because they have begun to specialise in health and safety risk management. Or APS may be your professional home and a way to demonstrate skills and expertise. Increasingly, you may find major clients expecting people on the bid team to demonstrate the competence and knowledge a CMAPS qualification exemplifies.

Other groups and bodies play a vital role in galvanising the construction industry into action. For example, when I attended the Health in Construction Leadership Group meeting in London recently, there were professional and membership bodies as well as major clients and practices. The group plays a vital role bringing everyone together and pointing us in the same direction and is now turning its gaze on the often unspoken, Cinderella-subject of mental-health in construction.

I believe, no matter how people have come to be working in construction, they want workers to be safe. We want, as far as possible, to manage risks construction workers face – risks that can kill or blight lives through accidents but let’s not forget more time is lost to workplace illnesses that are often slow, unseen and insidious.

However, I believe there is a real will to work together. Our starting points may be very different but we have many common aims and a road we can travel on together.

The recent pan-industry summit the APS hosted began to map out that route; it was an important reminder that more unites than divides us. That we should pull together to instil health and safety risk management into everything we do, concentrating on areas where we all agree. Let’s look at how we can work together to ensure practitioners are fit for roles that help tackle the real issues – making sure we cut deaths, injuries and life-changing health problems that result from working in construction.
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