Designers Risk Assessment for Sheeting and Cladding

A designer is an organisation or individual that prepares or modifies a design for any part of a construction project, such as specialist contractors selecting products and materials for a sheeting and cladding project.

Manufacturers supplying standardised products for use on such projects are not designers[1]. However, the person who selects the product is a designer and must take account of health and safety issues arising from the installation and use of those products.

Designers must:

- Understand and be aware of the significant risks that workers and users can be exposed to, and how these can arise from their design decisions.
- Have the right skills, knowledge, and experience to address the health and safety issues likely to be involved in the design.
- Check that your clients are aware of their duties.
- Co-operate with others who have responsibilities, in particular the principal designer.
- Take into account the general principles of prevention when carrying out their design work.
- Provide information about the remaining risks arising from their design.
- Co-ordinate their work with that of others in order to improve the way in which risks are managed and controlled.

An Example of a Designer's Risk Assessment

A good designer's risk assessment should identify the hazards and evaluate the risks. Dependent upon the hazard and level of risk, you are encouraged to eliminate risk by designing it out, however, if the risk cannot be designed out, you need to identify the control measures that are to be implemented to minimise the risk. All remaining risks must be highlighted and passed on, so that they can be taken into consideration by those who are planning, preparing, and managing the work.

Whilst developing a risk assessment, designers must take into account the principles of prevention which are:

1. Avoiding the risks.
2. Evaluate risks that cannot be avoided.
3. Reducing the risks at source.
4. Adapting to technical progress.
5. Replacing the dangerous with less dangerous.
6. Develop a coherent overall prevention policy.
7. Prioritise collective protective measures over individual protective measures.
8. Give appropriate instructions to employees.

The example design risk assessment shown on the reverse of this guidance sheet has been developed to help give you an understanding of the types of hazards you may be faced with when designing and planning a sheeting and cladding project.

When undertaking the design, you must also consider the hazards and associated risks of those who install and maintain the roof and walls.

Once the risks have been considered, the level of information provided to those that need it should be in proportion to the residual risks. It's important to undertake and then review your designer's risk assessments once implemented. You should also have a documented process in place for any changes that may be required whilst the project is ongoing and how these changes are communicated.

Should you require further support or assistance with developing a risk assessment procedure or advice on your duties under the CDM regulations, then contact the NFRC Health and Safety Support Team.

Further information

[1] Please note it is imperative that the contract documentation is consulted to fully understand who the designer is and what is their limit of responsibility.

Project Title:							Date:					
				Risk Classification				Risk Classification				
Item No:	Activity Element	Significant potential hazard	Population at Risk	Low	Medium	High	Design action to be taken to reduce risk	Low	Medium	High	Residual Risk/Action	REV
1	Roofing generally	Falls through incomplete work	Operatives and Other Site Operatives.			●	Provide safety netting prior to works commencing, not to be removed until the walkable liner is installed.		●		Seven-day safety net inspections managed on-site	
2	Roofing generally	Falls from perimeter	Operatives and Other Site Operatives			●	Edge protection to be provided during construction stage.		●		Seven -day scaffold inspections managed on-site	
3	Gutters specification	Injury when fitting due to excessive weight Trapped Fingers	Operatives		●		Designer and manufacturer to design gutter sections suitable two operatives to lift into place.	●			Operation to be managed on-site	
4	Wall cladding	Injury due to handling long or heavy panels	Operatives		●		All panels will be designed to have a maximum weight limit for two operatives. Any panels that cannot achieve this will be clearly marked and installed using mechanical means.		●		Operation to be managed on-site	
5	Installation of roofing/cladding	Other operatives in the work area	Operatives and Public			●	Cordon off areas signage and inform Site Team.	●			Operation to be managed on-site	
6	Unloading materials	Covid-19 Touching the Packaging	Operatives			●	Use mechanical means of offloading	●			Operation to be managed on-site	
7	Carriage of materials	Covid-19 Close Working	Operatives			●	All materials will be provided so that they can either be: A: Carried by one operative. B: Carried by more than one operative but the operatives will be further than two-metres apart. C: Carried by mechanical means.	●			Operation to be managed on-site	

Example risk assessment for designing and planning a sheeting and cladding project.

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