

Are you sharing design best practice?

CONSTRUCTION & DESIGN

A group of construction contractors and design organisations who came together last year to form a best-practice alliance recently called in the HSE to examine its website with a view to publicising it to the wider construction and design communities.

The Design Network Group and website www.dbp.org.uk was established in response to a perceived lack of understanding of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations among designers and design organisations. Its aim is to share design best practice among member contractors and the wider industry, and to review the way designer competence is assessed.

The network is made up of the lead design engineers and managers of an alliance group of contractors who have a recent history of working closely together with a large blue-chip organisation. A review panel sits four times a year to assess the value of received design examples, which can be submitted via the website.

The network says its potential long-term benefits are many. Besides being able to demonstrate to its clients and the HSE that the companies are taking the CDM



responsibilities seriously, they also include demonstrable benefits in terms of time, cost and quality, as well as safety.

It now believes it has reached a point where there is sufficient information for the website to grow substantially – the more good practice design ideas that are submitted the better for all concerned. David Thomas, principal specialist inspector with the HSE's construction division technology unit, commented: "The HSE welcomes the numerous examples of good and best practice compiled by DPB. These will assist designers in achieving 'safety through design'. The examples provide practical guidance on the designer's duty to identify and eliminate hazards, adapt their design to reduce the risk from residual hazards, and provide clear and concise information. We encourage all to contribute and share their experiences."

The message of the website is clear, says the network: if you can design it out, share it!