

Safemark NHBC's Health & Safety Competence Assessment Scheme

| Health & Safety |



Why measure health and safety competence?

Being able to prove your health and safety competence in the building industry is a crucial element to securing contracts. Clients will always seek highly competent principal contractors who then, in turn, will look for the same in the sub-contractors that they employ.

The Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007 (CDM07) state that both contractors and sub-contractors must be able to demonstrate Stage 1 competence which can be approved through an independent assessment scheme.



Assessing health and safety competence can be a complicated and time consuming process. There are two levels that need to be considered:

Stage 1

- The primary level. This is the ability of an organisation to prove that their arrangements for managing health and safety are sufficient to allow them to carry out work safely and without risk to the health of their workers.

Stage 2

- The second level assesses competence in relation to experience and the needs of the particular job. It looks at an individual's track record of working on similar types of project to those being tendered for.





What is Safemark?

Safemark has been developed to help home builders meet their obligation to only appoint competent contractors and to help contractors to prove their competence.

The scheme is a pre-qualification assessment designed around the requirements of Appendix 4 of the Approved Code of Practice to (CDM07). Competence is assessed against the criteria set out in Stage 1 including, amongst others, the requirements for contractors to have a health and safety policy, access to competent health and safety advice and to ensure employees are appropriately trained.

By satisfying the Safemark assessment, the contractor is able to demonstrate Stage 1 competence to future employers, avoiding the need to repeat the process for every builder worked for. This also helps those buying services from contractors, as they need only worry about Stage 2 assessments (i.e. matching the experience of the contractor to the work being undertaken).



A certificate will be issued to those who successfully complete the assessment, along with a logo for use on corporate stationery. Accreditation lasts for 12 months and needs to be renewed annually by reassessment.

Why choose Safemark?

- Safemark is accredited to the Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) standard, of which NHBC is a founder member.
- Safemark is the only scheme on the market at present designed by house builder specialists for house builders.
- By accepting a third party assessment of Stage 1 competence, builders no longer need to maintain a register of competent contractors or undertake costly, time consuming Stage 1 assessments.
- Safemark in effect provides contractors with a 'passport' exempting them from undergoing repetitive Stage 1 assessments.
- NHBC's health and safety reputation speaks for itself with many years experience of running an Audit and Accreditation scheme, quality of assessment is guaranteed.
- The scheme saves clients and builders time as there is no need to manage the lengthy administration associated with self certification.
- Accreditation lasts 12 months so once contractors have satisfied the assessment they only need to repeat it once a year rather than for every builder they work for.
- Being registered as part of the scheme will actually help generate business for contractors as clients and builders look to meet health and safety competence requirements.



WEB

NHBC's Health and Safety Competence Assessment Scheme (Safemark)

To register your interest in this scheme please complete the details below and fax to 0844 633 0028 or return to:

NHBC Health and Safety Services,
NHBC House, Davy Avenue, Knowlhill,
Milton Keynes, Bucks MK5 8FP.

For more information please visit www.nhbc.co.uk/Safemark or call 0844 633 1000 and ask for 'Health & Safety'.

Contact name: _____

Company name: _____

Company address: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Fax: _____

Email: _____

For more information:

- Please complete the attached information request form and return it to us by fax or post
- Visit the NHBC website at www.nhbc.co.uk/Safemark
- E-mail safemark@nhbc.co.uk
- Or contact us on 0844 633 1000 and ask for 'Health and Safety'.

Data Protection Act 1998 (This Notice only applies to individuals and not to limited companies).

NHBC is the data controller. We store the details you supply for administration purposes and sales analysis. By completing and returning this form you agree to NHBC processing your data. If you do not wish to be approached, please tick the appropriate box(es).

In the future we may contact you for research purposes or to keep you informed of NHBC products and services that may be of interest to you.

If you do not wish to be contacted by NHBC please tick the box

NHBC may also pass your details to carefully selected third parties who may contact you with free publications and selected offers that they believe may be of interest to you.

If you do not wish your details to be passed on to third parties please tick the box



Safemark provides:

- **reassurance** that contractors/sub-contractors are compliant with important health and safety legislation;
- **time saved** as there is no need to repeat the effort of assessing health and safety compliance for every builder worked for;
- **better business practice** in the tender process and more profitable and effective client - contractor/sub-contractor relationships through monitored compliance.



This leaflet has been printed on material which is produced from well managed forests and is fully recyclable and biodegradable, ECF (elemental chlorine free) and is made to ISO 14001 Environmental Certification.



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