

# Safer Sphere *Today*

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EXPERIENCE  
RANGING FROM  
MINOR PROJECTS  
OF £20K THROUGH  
TO MAJOR  
DEVELOPMENTS  
TO THE VALUE  
OF £500M

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[www.safersphere.co.uk](http://www.safersphere.co.uk)





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# OUTSOURCED SAFETY SUPPORT AT A FRACTION OF THE COST

## CONTRACTOR SAFETY SUPPORT

Safer Sphere appreciates that the CDM Regulations 2015 and Health and Safety Legislation can be a burden to small and medium sized contractors. Such organisations rarely have the resource to employ internal Health and Safety professionals, meaning the burden is applied to those managing the organisation or supervising construction activities.

Our aim in this department is to reduce that burden by providing compliant Contractor CDM Safety Support, which enables contractors to make Health and Safety a simple process and gives them ability to concentrate their efforts in providing quality and cost effective solutions in their chosen field. Whether you are a "contractor" or acting as "Principal Contractor", Safer Sphere are here to help you!

### THE RANGE OF SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR CONTRACTOR CDM SAFETY SUPPORT INCLUDE:

#### LITE PACKAGE

- Provision of Competent Person in accordance with Regulation 7 of the Management of Health & Safety at Work Regulations 1999.
- Annual audit of client competent health & safety advisor Reg 7 certificate.

- Access to advice by phone and email.
- Monthly safety bulletin

#### STANDARD PACKAGE *Lite Package Plus*

- Fully compliant Safety Management System.
- Monthly site audit.
- Accident and Incident investigations.
- Annual office / premises risk assessment and fire risk assessment.

#### PREMIER PACKAGE *Standard Package Plus*

- 1No. additional project site audit per month.
- Development of up to 2No. bespoke risk assessments / method statements / COSHH assessments.
- Assistance in obtaining or maintainingSSIP accreditation.
- Attendance at annual management meeting to review organisational H&S.

If the packages do not suit your particular needs then Safer Sphere can develop a bespoke subscription to suit your requirements, with additional ad-hoc services available when and where you need them.

Please contact Safer Sphere for any health & safety consultancy service  
fee quotations on **01744 768023** or email: **info@safersphere.co.uk**



**THIS** edition of Safer Sphere Today provides the latest Health and Safety news, topical bulletins as well as an insight into our business. Included in this issue is an article on PAS 91 and how it relates to the construction industry. We also take a look at our new project wins since the last issue and take a look at some of the projects that have been completed. Safer Sphere also showcases our latest client case study on the Wellesbourne Industrial estate project, and we take a look at our new additional office. Safer Sphere operates nationally from our headquarters in the North West. If you have a need for any business or project support, please do get in contact with our team.

Kind Regards

Mike Forsyth

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# Wins and Completions

## ROYTON AND CROMPTON HIGH SCHOOL

**CLIENT:** GALLIFORD TRY  
**SERVICES:** PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## CHATHAM WATERS PRS SCHEME

**CLIENT:** PEEL MEDIA/ RUSSELLS  
**SERVICES:** PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## ROTHERHAM INTERCHANGE PROJECT

**CLIENT:** INTERSERVE  
**SERVICES:** PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## CASTLEBROOK HIGH SCHOOL

**CLIENT:** GALLIFORD TRY  
**SERVICES:** PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## THE HEIGHTS LEISURE CENTRE

**CLIENT:** FAIRHURST DESIGN GROUP  
**SERVICES:** PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## UNITS 8 WELLESBOURNE DISTRIBUTION PARK, WARWICK

**CLIENT:** GRIFFEN CAPITAL LTD  
**SERVICES:** CDM CLIENT ADVISOR



## DELTIC AVENUE

**CLIENT:** GRIFFEN DEVELOPMENTS  
**SERVICES:** PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR & CLIENT CDM ADVISOR



## WORCESTER HOSPITAL – VARIOUS ADDITIONAL WORKS

**CLIENT:** ENGIE FM  
**SERVICES:** CDM CLIENT ADVISOR AND PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## Completed

## UNITS 4 & 5 WELLESBOURNE DISTRIBUTION PARK, WARWICK

**CLIENT:** GRIFFEN CAPITAL LTD  
**SERVICES:** CDM CLIENT ADVISOR

## GREENFOLD WAY

**CLIENT:** PROPERTY ALLIANCE GROUP AND CUBE ARCHITECTS  
**SERVICES:** CDM CLIENT ADVISOR AND PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## 55 PORTLAND STREET, MANCHESTER

**CLIENT:** RUSSELL'S CONSTRUCTION AND PROPERTY ALLIANCE GROUP  
**SERVICES:** PRINCIPAL DESIGNER ADVISOR



## HARROGATE SPA RETAIL PARK

**CLIENT:** LEACH RHODES WALKER  
**SERVICES:** CDM CLIENT ADVISOR





## Construction prequalification questionnaires



# WHAT IS PAS 91 AND HOW DOES IT RELATE TO THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY?

### What is PAS 91?

PAS 91 stands for Publicly Available Specification for prequalification questionnaires in construction-related procurement. It was commissioned by the Government and developed by the British Standards Institute (BSI) and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). Following its launch in October

2010, it was seen as a positive step towards addressing the issue that many businesses face when completing Pre-Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ's). It has undergone two revisions, one in 2013 and more recently in December 2017.

### What are the aims of PAS 91?

PAS 91 provides a standard set of

questions that can be asked by construction clients, buyers of potential contractors and suppliers as part of the pre-qualification process for construction projects.

The document aims to reduce the time and cost associated with completing PQQ's, particularly for small and medium-sized businesses.

*It does this by helping to streamline the tendering process for suppliers by:*

- reducing the need for completing multiple prequalification processes;
- reducing the time taken to interpret and answer questions so better responses can be given;
- increasing the confidence that the form is completed correctly;
- allowing more time so more bids can be tendered;
- increasing the likelihood that the prequalification process is participated in;
- freeing up resources that could be used in a potentially more profitable activity;
- allowing SME's to compete for business with large organisations without the resource/cost burden of the procurement process.

When bidding for a construction project, at any one time, there may be multiple suppliers throughout the supply chain. They all want to show that their skills, knowledge and experience would deem them suitable to deliver the project. The presence of different types of questionnaires, written in many different formats, can lead to unnecessary time, money and effort being spent by the buyer when trying to read, compare and evaluate the contents.

*The use of PAS 91 may benefit buyers and their agents by:*

- reducing the time spent creating pre-qualification questionnaires;
- improving the quality of the responses received;
- increasing more competition due to the likelihood of more suppliers bidding;
- increasing the number of buyers following good practice (although there are no official means of getting certified, buyers can demonstrate that they follow minimum government standards for construction procurement).

The universal use of PAS 91 could also help to raise the overall standard of communication, understanding and supplier capability across the construction sector.

### What is the structure of PAS 91?

There are three parts to PAS 91. One section is made up of mandatory

questions that must be asked by the buyer that cover commercial aspects of the company. They include information such as company structure, contact details, financial and health and safety information. There are specific questions to answer depending on whether you are a contractor, designer or service provider. To remain compliant, these questions must use the same wording and appear in the same order.

The next section contains optional questions relating to certain areas of the company, such as Environmental Management, Quality Management, Policies on Equal Opportunities and Diversity and Policy on Building Information Modelling (BIM).

The third section contains a framework for asking a set of additional project-specific questions that establish professional or technical ability. These questions should be chosen carefully to reduce any unnecessary documentation and only request information that is relevant and proportionate to the contract.

### How does Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) relate to PAS 91?

Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) was founded in 2009 to help SME's by developing transparent, simple and strategic procurement. Supported by the HSE, SSIP aims to streamline prequalification and encourage straightforward mutual recognition between its Member Schemes. Many suppliers, contractors and designers are registered with an SSIP Member and below are just some of the well-known members and supporters that are accepted:

- CHAS (Construction Health and Safety)
- Acclaim
- Constructionline
- APS (Association for Project Safety)
- SMAS (Safety Management Advisory Service)

These assessment providers can also benefit from the use of PAS 91. It can reduce the time spent on having to develop and refine their own questions and will release more time, so they can focus on developing and selling added value services.

### Is PAS 91 a requirement of Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015?

When considering CDM15, the guidance does not make the use of PAS 91 compulsory. As the SSIP core criteria for assessments are aligned to this government-backed construction pre-qualification document, it ensures that there is consistency within supply chain management.

Since the implementation of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015 and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, PAS 91 has been amended to ensure that it is aligned with the new legislation. It also now addresses the requirements of the European Single Procurement Document (ESPD).

PAS 91:2013 +A1:2017 is the latest version and is more closely aligned with the standard Selection Questionnaire and ESPD. Before this version was published, contracting authorities were required to carry out a 'pick and mix' style process, selecting sections from the standard Selection Questionnaire and PAS 91:2013 in an attempt to produce a standard selection/pre-qualification document for procuring works.

The update to PAS 91:2013 has resulted in questions about supplier identity and financial information being amended. These changes now reflect the approach of Part 1 of the Selection Questionnaire, and there are additional tables included in the document for public sector purchasers to use. They list the mandatory and discretionary grounds for exclusion set out in the 2015 Public Contracts Regulations with suppliers required to self-declare.

### Has PAS 91 fulfilled its aim?

The overall aim of implementing PAS 91 was to address the problems faced by small and medium-sized businesses when it came to completing a variety of different PQQ's for different clients. As discussed, the framework set out in PAS 91 allows buyers to use a standardised questionnaire that is familiar to contractors, designers and service providers alike. The latest revision of PAS 91 has brought it in line with the recently updated Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015, and this ensures that any health and safety issues are considered during the development of the construction project.





# SAFER SPHERE EXPAND TO PRINCES DOCK OFFICE

Safer Sphere announced last month that we were expanding our operation into Liverpool, sharing office space with Walker Sime and Planit.ie. Read our full please release below:

St Helens based Construction (Design and Management) safety specialists Safer Sphere has signed up to an additional office at the prestigious Princes Docks in Liverpool.

The move comes off the back of the multiple projects and clients that are based in the area and shows the businesses on-going commitment to the city. The new office will be open from May, and Safer Sphere will share the 3,519 sq ft first floor at 8 Princes Dock with Walker Sime and Planit.ie. The Princess Dock office is a modern five-storey Grade 'A' office building complete with a newly remodelled and refurbished double height entrance and reception area, located on the Liverpool Waterfront.

Mike Forsyth, Managing Director, Safer Sphere said "Liverpool has proved itself a real success story as a

city, and there is a hive of development in the city. It is important for us to be able to deliver our services to a high standard and as such having a local presence in the area will play a key part in that. The new office along with our ongoing investment in our services and team will allow us to continue with our growth plans. We hope to continue working closely with our Liverpool clients as well and building new relationships with local businesses."

Safer Sphere will join other prestigious businesses on the Liverpool Waterfront including KPMG, Malmaison, Saville's and Bibby to name just a few. The Liverpool office will act as an additional office and presence in the heart of Liverpool, and Safer Sphere's head office will remain in St Helens.

## CONSTRUCTION TRIO NETS £526,500 PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO PLAN WORK AT HEIGHT

A principal contractor (PC), a main contractor and a subcontractor must pay fines totaling £526,500 after an employee for the subcontractor crashed through a fragile roof light at Portsmouth's flagship leisure centre and fell 4 m.

Wessex Building Services was the main contractor on site at Mountbatten Leisure Centre when the Wessex Insulation employee was installing insulation to new ventilation ductwork on the leisure centre's roof on 17 December 2015. The worker fell through the fragile structure and sustained six fractures to his back. He has since made a full recovery.

A Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigation found PC Dantherm, Wessex Building Services and Wessex Insulation had collectively failed to plan and manage the work at height risk around roof lights. They were sentenced at Portsmouth Crown Court on 30 April.

Wessex Building Services of Wessex House, Shaftesbury, Dorset pleaded guilty to breaching reg 4(1)(a) of the Work at Height Regulations 2005. The main contractor was handed a £425,000 fine and must pay £6,646 in costs.

Wessex Insulation of Albany Road, Weymouth, Dorset admitted breaching reg 9(2) of the same regulations. The subcontractor must pay £70,833 plus £6,646 in costs.

Dantherm of Windmill Business Park, Clevedon, Somerset, pleaded guilty to breaching reg 13(1) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015. The Dantherm Group, which designs and manufactures energy efficient equipment for mobile and fixed heating, cooling, drying and ventilation applications, was fined £30,666 and must also pay £6,646 in costs.

SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.IOSHMAGAZINE.COM](https://www.ioshmagazine.com)

## COMPANY FINED FOR EXPOSING EMPLOYEES TO DUST

A furniture manufacturer has been fined after exposing its employees to significant quantities of hardwood dust, a hazardous substance known to cause occupational asthma and nasal cancer.

Luton Magistrates' Court heard how employees in Andrena Furniture Ltd's workshop were exposed to hardwood dust on a daily basis. One of the reasons for such high levels of the hazardous substance was found to be the company's extraction system, which when tested was found to be inefficient during a HSE inspection in 2016.

An investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) also found that following previous visits, and verbal and written advice, the company failed to ensure standards achieved following previous inspections were maintained. The investigation also found the company should have identified its workshop contained significant quantities of hardwood dust and then do all that it could to reduce exposure to its employees, including ensuring extraction was working efficiently and implementing a robust cleaning regime.

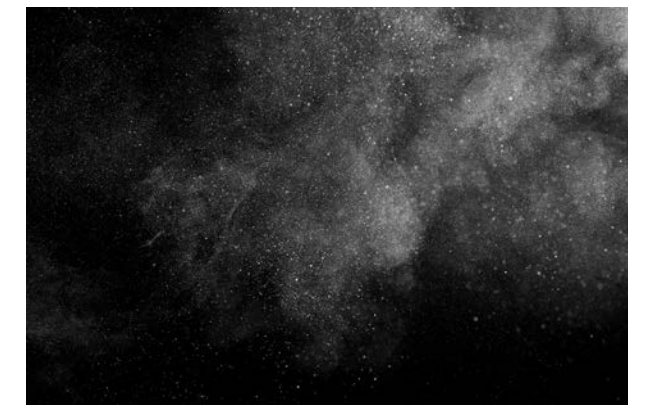
Andrena Furniture Ltd of Geddings Road, Hoddesdon, Herts pleaded guilty to breaching Regulations 7(1) and 9(2)(a) of the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2002 and was fined £8,000. The company was also ordered to pay costs of £1081.40.

Speaking after the hearing, HSE inspector Sandra Dias said: "Andrena Furniture Ltd was fully aware of the health and safety standards it needed to maintain.

"Breathing in dust can cause life-changing lung disease or make existing conditions worse. Thousands of people die from work-related lung diseases every year, often due to continued exposure over a long period of time.

"Everyone has the right to go home healthy from work and employers must do the right thing to protect their workers and ensure this happens.

"This case should serve as a warning to others that HSE takes seriously repeated breaches of health and safety law that exposes employees to health risks."



SOURCE: [HTTP://PRESS.HSE.GOV.UK/](http://press.hse.gov.uk/)



## CASE STUDY



### CLIENT

Griffen Capital Ltd

### SERVICES PROVIDED

Principal Designer Advisor  
& Client CDM Advisor

### SERVICE PERIOD

2017 - March 2018

### PROJECTS

Units 1-5 Wellesbourne  
Distribution Park

## SERVICES

### Service Description

Safer Sphere was appointed Client CDM Advisors and Principal Designer Advisors on the construction of 5 steel portal framed distribution warehouses which incorporates a 2-storey office/administration facility at Wellesbourne Distribution Park, Off Loxley Road, Warwick, CV35 9JY. The scope of service includes:-

- Principal Designer Advisor services in line with CDM 2015
- Assisting with H&S in designs, buildability and programme to reduce risk profiles
- Assisting the Client in discharging their duties under CDM
- Pre-Contract reviews with sub-contractors and packages
- Reviews of high-risk activities and applicable safe systems of work for enabling packages
- Advising on compliance with organisational operating procedures and minimum standards
- Overseeing PD and PC compliance in the construction stage

### Service Challenges

Whilst the client and design team have led the design with best practice CDM principles, some of the key challenges include: -

- Working adjacent to a very busy private Airfield, to which we bordered the Airfield Fenceline
- Working in a very busy distribution park that had upwards of 200+ HGV's a day.

*Further unit works are planned later in the year*



# IS YOUR PROJECT COMPLIANT?

## CDM CLIENT SUPPORT SOLUTIONS

**SAFER SPHERE HAS AN ARRAY OF EXPERIENCE IN DELIVERING CDM SUPPORT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CDM REGULATIONS 2015.**

We pride ourselves on delivering above and beyond the call of the CDM Regulations, our integration with the client project delivery teams and support provided to enable best practice solutions. Our delivery model ensures a superior service, competent advice and ultimately a project that meets with the very best practices of Construction Health & Safety.

### CDM 2015 PROJECT CDM CONSULTANT SERVICES INCLUDE:-

Acting as adviser to the Client in discharging their duties including:-

- Notify the HSE of the project via an online applications.
- Advise on and or collate the project Pre Construction H&S Information Pack on behalf of the client for issue to the project team.
- Assist with preparation of and advise the client as to the adequacy of the Construction Phase H&S Plan and welfare facilities developed by the

Principal Contractor.

- Monitoring of Principal Designer and Principal Contractor compliance.
- Advise on and or collate the project H&S File.

### ADDITIONAL SERVICES WHICH A CLIENT MAY ALSO WISH TO CONSIDER:-

- Stage 1 & Stage 2 Competence Assessments of duty holders against the requirements of PAS 91.
- PQQ / ITT H&S question setting for framework and or project tender enquiries.
- Independent Site Inspection and or Safety Audits of operations on site to ensure compliance.
- Liaison support with the Health & Safety Executive on behalf of the client.
- Client CDM training to assist client representative in understanding their duties under the CDM Regulations.
- Preparation of model contract / appointment clauses to hold designers and contractors to their duties and compliance.

Please contact Safer Sphere for any health & safety consultancy service fee quotations on **01744 768023** or email: [info@safersphere.co.uk](mailto:info@safersphere.co.uk)



# YOUR LEADING FULL SERVICE & CONSTRUCTION HEALTH & SAFETY CONSULTANTS

CONTRACTOR CDM SAFETY SUPPORT

CDM CLIENT SUPPORT

E-LEARNING

PRINCIPAL DESIGNER CONSULTANCY

MONTHLY SAFETY BULLETIN

**Safer Sphere** are the provider of choice for competent, professional and holistic Construction Health & Safety Solutions with a difference. We are specialist CDM Consultants in all areas of health and safety in construction including Construction Design & Management (CDM) and Project Health and Safety (H&S).

Our focus is to assist the industry in compliance through best practice, to provide simple and innovative solutions to a clients needs. As one of the leading CDM consultants and Construction Health & Safety consultants we are driven by our commitment to clients, our belief that we can always improve on what has gone before and that we can truly deliver the ability for us all to operate within a Safer Sphere.

*"Our focus is to assist the industry in compliance through best practice, to provide simple and innovative solutions to a client's needs."*

**MIKE FORSYTH**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

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