

## Designers (including Planners) – Opportunities and Responsibilities

### Who is a designer?

*“*designer” means any person (including a client, contractor or other person referred to in these Regulations) who in the course or furtherance of a business—

1. prepares or modifies a design; or
2. arranges for or instructs any person under his control to do so,

relating to a structure or to a product or mechanical or electrical system intended for a particular structure, and a person is deemed to prepare a design where a design is prepared by a person under his control;

Designers include those who plan works or select materials etc.

**Designer:** person or organisation carrying out design, of whatever discipline, including preparation of specifications and selection of plant or materials. A designer may also be a client or contractor.

**Planner**: person or organisation planning what work is to be carried out, scheduling, co-ordinating or sequencing. A planner may also decide what method of work is to be adopted, arrange for diversions, isolations and de-pressurisation of services. A planner may be a client, designer or contractor.

### What can a designer/planner add?

Designers (and planners) are in a unique position to reduce the risks that arise during construction and associated work. Good design will eliminate, substitute or as a minimum reduce and advise on risks that have not been mitigated. A good designer will coordinate and communicate with their construction colleagues regularly to identify the best, safest design and will provide clear information on risks identified during design and how they were mitigated. Good design prevents injuries.

### What are designers’/planners’ responsibilities?

Designers are responsible for ensuring that clients are aware of their duties, seek to eliminate hazards and reduce risks in their designs, to co-operate with others and to provide information about significant risks. They are required to avoid foreseeable risks as far as is reasonably practicable, following the hierarchy of risk management.

### The following checklist provides a simple guide to help designers / planners review whether they are following best practice.

**If it is not possible to confirm that an item has been carried out, this should provide a prompt to identify what further action should be taken as appropriate.**

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