

THE ROLE OF CONSTRUCTION HEALTH & SAFETY AGENTS IN PLANNING (EARLY STAGES) OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

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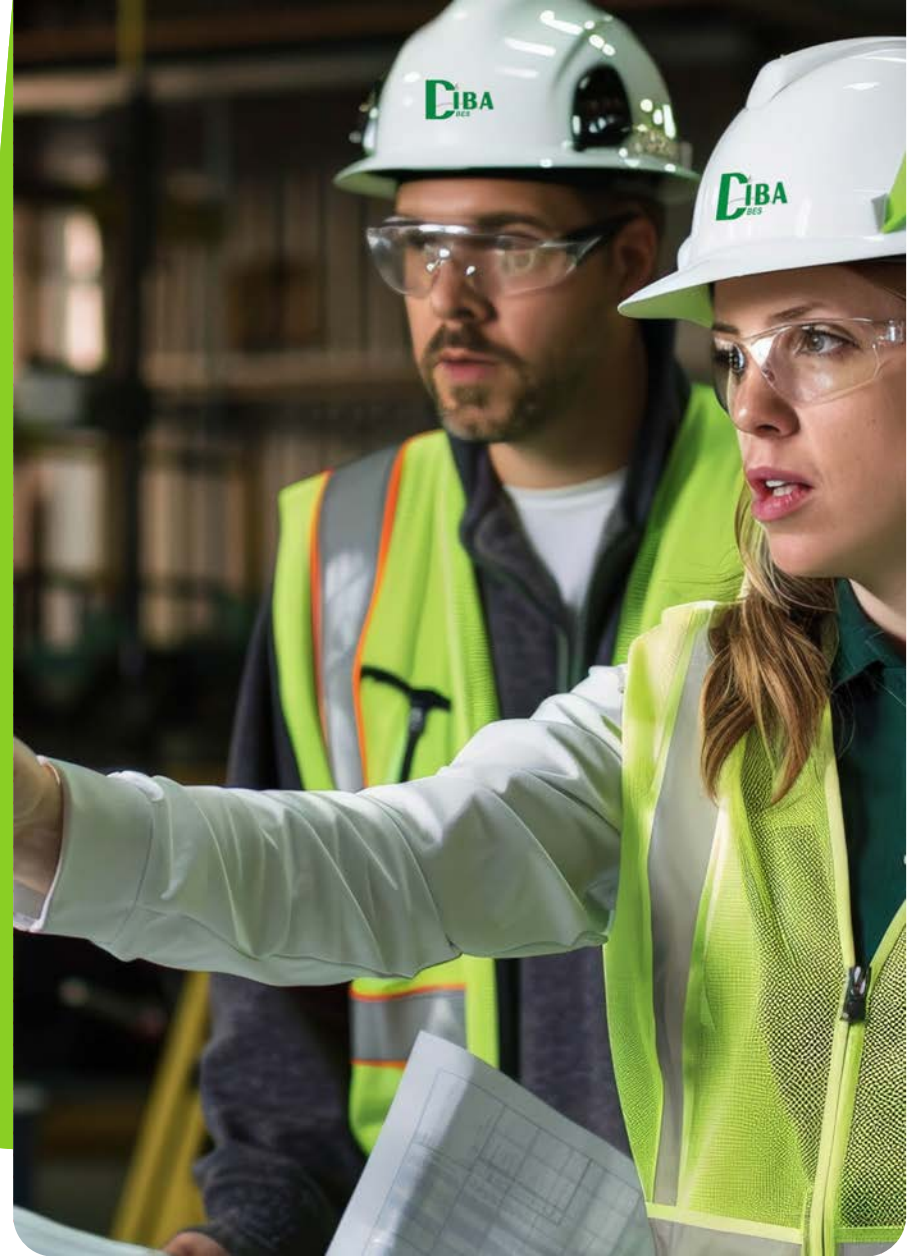


STAGE 1

PROJECT INITIATION AND BRIEFING

H&S Considerations:

- Client's Legal Duties: Under Construction Regulations 2014 (CR 5), the client must ensure health and safety is considered from inception.
- Appoint a CHS Agent: A competent Construction Health and Safety Agent (PrCHSA) should be appointed at this stage to represent the client on H&S matters.
- Early Risk Identification: Preliminary assessments of site conditions (e.g., contamination, accessibility, presence of asbestos, existing services).
- Project Brief Development: Must include H&S goals, design risk management expectations, and sustainability requirements.



STAGE 2

CONCEPT AND FEASIBILITY

H&S Considerations:

- Design Risk Management Begins: Designers must begin to eliminate hazards and reduce risks through design decisions (CR 6).
- Initial H&S Risk Register: Created to identify foreseeable risks that can influence feasibility, budget, and construction methodology.
- H&S Cost Implications: Early pricing of health and safety interventions (e.g., temporary works, safe access routes).
- Draft construction project baseline risk assessment
- Draft construction project health and safety specification.



STAGE 3

DESIGN DEVELOPMENT

Key Focus: Develop initial design concepts with spatial and technical parameters.

- Hazard Elimination Through Design: Actively design out risks (e.g., use of prefabrication, safe access points, maintenance access).
- Health & Safety Specification (Preliminary): Prepared by the CHSA, addressing risks identified in the concept design.
- Integrated Design Team Coordination: Ensure architects, engineers, and specialists embed safety in all disciplines (e.g., ergonomics, materials handling).
- Design risk management records
- Schedule of precautions necessary for construction project health, safety and hygiene control
- Approved early works health and safety plans
- Early works audit reports and records
- Initial schedule of construction project health and safety cost estimates/budgets
- Template for health and safety file

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STAGE 4

TENDER DOCUMENTATION AND PROCUREMENT

H&S Considerations:

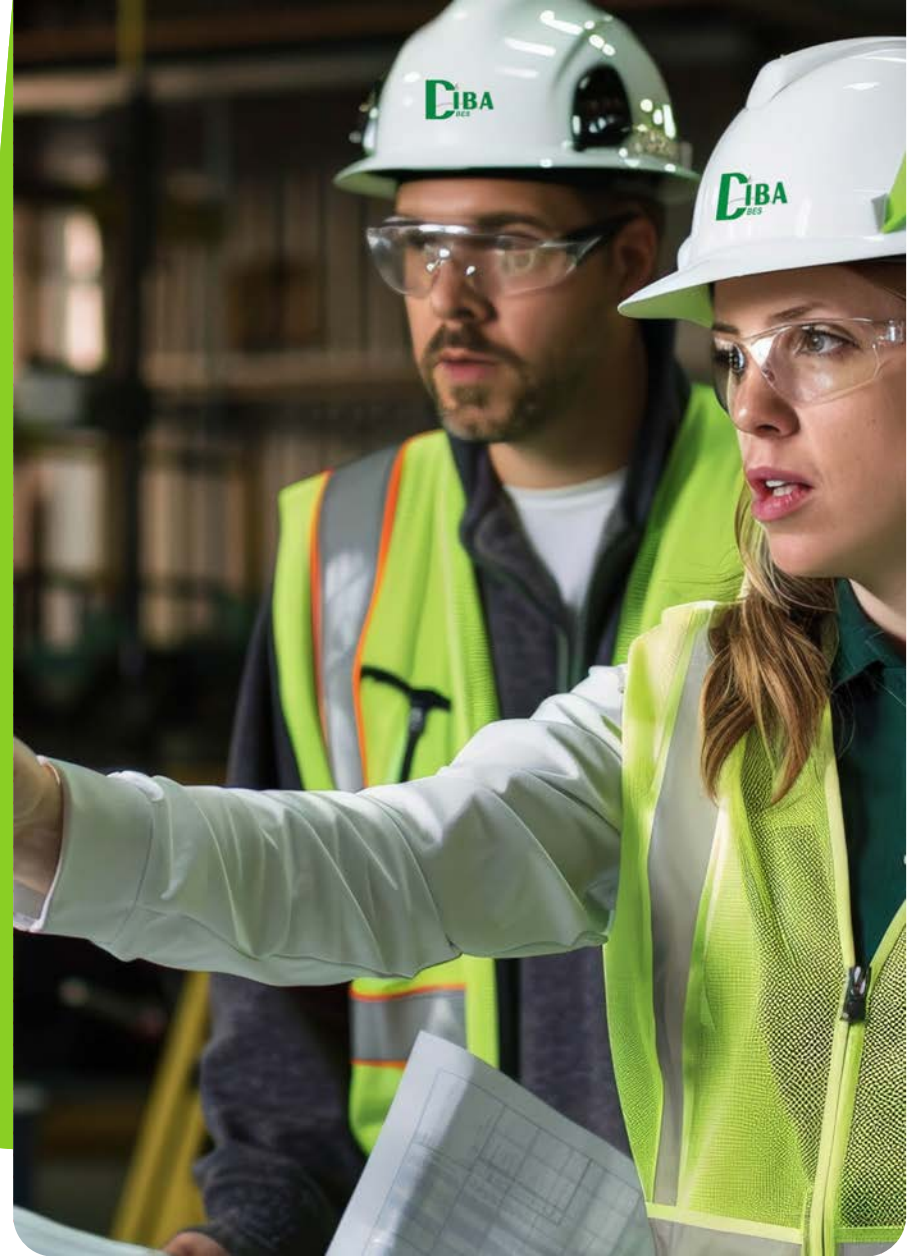
- Final construction project tender health and safety specifications
- Records of construction project health and safety procurement process
- Construction project health and safety tender evaluation and records
- Finalised schedule of construction project health and safety cost estimate/budget
- Construction project health and safety contract documentation
- Construction project health and safety mobilisation and access plans
- Design risk management records
- Record of construction project health and safety risk communication



STAGE 5 CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTATION & MANAGEMENT

H&S Considerations:

- Approved contractor(s) construction project health and safety plans, including all construction health and safety appointments.
- Permits to commence construction work.
- Record of meetings, including all construction health and safety matters to be actioned.
- Record of revised changes to the construction project health and safety risk profiles.
- Record of revised changes to the construction project health and safety specifications
- Record of revised changes and commissioning of the construction project health and safety plans
- Record of construction project health and safety audit reports
- Record of contractor(s) construction health and safety performance
- Record of construction project health and safety work stoppage reports
- Record of incident and accident investigations and corrective actions





PROJECT CLOSE-OUT

- Record of audits during the defects liability period
- Record of construction health and safety risk communication
- Report on approved health and safety file
- Health and safety operations and maintenance report
- Consolidated construction project health and safety close-out report



CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the role of Construction Health and Safety Agents is not only critical but strategic in shaping the success and safety of construction projects from inception to close-out. As outlined through Stages 1 to 6, our involvement begins at project initiation—ensuring risk is identified early, safety specifications are integrated into design, and legal compliance is embedded in procurement and planning.



THANK YOU
