

Exor

Health & Safety



EXOR'S ROLE WITHIN SAFETY SCHEMES IN PROCUREMENT (SSIP)



exor



EXOR'S ROLE WITHIN SAFETY SCHEMES IN PROCUREMENT (SSIP)

Exor Management Services is pleased to confirm that it is a founder member of the SSIP. All members of the SSIP Forum have recognised that unnecessary duplication exists and have moved towards reducing the business burden through **'deem to satisfy' or 'mutual recognition'** arrangements between schemes and organisations involved in the pre qualification / qualification of suppliers in Health & Safety.

The Forum acts as an umbrella organization for clients, contractors and consultants to facilitate further structured mutual recognition between schemes and others who carry out health and safety pre-qualification. Using an SSIP Forum pre-qualification scheme for a Stage 1 assessment enables clients to concentrate on Stage 2 of the procurement process. The SSIP Forum members are also committed to advise and influence clients, contractors and consultants about reasonable interpretation and appropriateness of health and safety competence standards in UK schemes.

The Forum embraces the core guidance on competence and training in the Approved Code of Practice (ACoP) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007. This is the standard that informs the benchmark for Stage 1 assessment but does not exclude the scope for more in depth analysis to suit individual requirements e.g. on site reviews.

HSE is an active supporter of the SSIP initiative. An extract of the comments by the HSE are shown below:

Accreditation assessment

'HSE recognises that an accreditation assessment carried out by any of the member schemes satisfies the requirements of the Core Criteria. Any client wishing to procure the services of a business which has achieved accreditation can be confident that a reasonable and robust judgement has been made that the standard for competency in CDM 2007 have been met, for the first stage of procurement.

HSE has a permanent non voting role as a co-opted member on the SSIP Forum, and uses this role to ensure that an annual independent audit of the processes employed by each of the member schemes is carried out. This means that HSE has confidence that the process of accreditation carried out by any member scheme will be consistent and fit for purpose.

HSE encourages Clients to accept a valid accreditation from any of the SSIP Forum member schemes as having met Stage 1 of the Core Criteria and should not then require any further evidence in relation to Stage 1.

Client responsibility

However possession of a SSIP Forum accreditation cannot be taken on its own as a sufficient assessment of competence for a business to commence construction work. All Clients must ensure that before engaging an accredited business to carry out construction work a further Stage 2 assessment of the Core Criteria will always be needed. This Stage 2 assessment is the responsibility of the Client.

HSE fully appreciates that clients may have a duty to determine a broader range of criteria than those established by CDM 2007, such as management of waste in the environment. It is important to recognise that arrangements for mutual recognition under SSIP Forum relate only to health and safety competence.'

Further details of the HSE support for the Scheme can be located at www.ssip.org.uk

What standards did Exor need to demonstrate to secure HSE endorsement of the SSIP programme ?

To move the 'deem to satisfy' agreement forward the Health & Safety Executive appointed and paid for an external consultant to conduct a review and report of what the schemes were doing, how they were operating and to make recommendations on what the Forum needed to achieve for SSIP to become a reality.

To become a SSIP member, Exor had to achieve and maintain our SSIP registration we had to demonstrate and maintain the standards required by HSE through to an annual independent third-party audit. The audit is in two parts, we have to demonstrate quality management to ISO 9001 standard and health and safety pre-qualification to the HSE approved standard.

How can Exor help buyers utilise the service to best effect ?

The SSIP initiative is part of the solution on offer. The aim is to offer the buyer wider access to suppliers that are compliant or approved with any SSIP member has been assessed to the threshold standard (stage 1). The buyer having verified their status will only then need to focus on the project or job specific assessment (stage 2).

When tendering for work many existing Exor buyers require suppliers to be Exor registered and will advertise "Exor or equivalent". If a supplier tenders for work with a buyer as an 'equivalent' you need not ask them to register with Exor - simply accept their SSIP equivalence, having first verified with the SSIP scheme member that it remains valid. The reverse of this option also applies to other members of the SSIP Forum.

Exor is able to extend the service that we offer to include a compliance service level that incorporates an on - site inspection to confirm what has been stated and checked in the desktop assessment.

Furthermore, Exor is pleased to extend access to its core National database of suppliers that will show a range of suppliers that are qualified, monitored and ready to serve based on an extensive range of compliance checks. This option is open to all buyers that have a 'supply chain' to manage.

What are the key elements of the CDM 2007 Approved Code of Practice that apply SSIP members ?

The threshold standard required for SSIP membership are those described in the CDM ACoP - the core criteria.

1. The ACoP (201) states, "Doing an assessment requires you to make a judgment as to whether the organisation or individual has the competence to carry out the work safely. If your judgment is reasonable, taking into account the evidence that has been asked for and provided, you will not be criticised if the organisation you appoint subsequently proves not to have been competent to carry out the work".
2. ACoP 207 states, "Alternatively, organisations may use an independent accreditation organisation to assess their competence against the elements of the core criteria. Where this route is adopted, both clients (with the help of the CDM coordinator for notifiable projects) and organisations putting themselves forward for assessment should satisfy themselves that the accreditation body is using the criteria in Appendix 4 as a basis for the assessment".

What are the benefits to Exor suppliers of the SSIP programme ?

The key in the 'Deem to satisfy' or 'mutual recognition' that will apply amongst SSIP membership. Exor members will be accepted by CHAS, NHBC and Constructionline (although they do not carry out assessments themselves) for Health & Safety purposes. We anticipate that this membership will grow in the coming months and that the impact will be to minimise the duplication and cost involved in the process. The web site at (www.ssip.org.uk) will be the best source to track changes in the membership.

For further information please contact Exor on [01992 707272](tel:01992707272)