

Notification of changes to the assessment of Health and Safety competence for construction services contracts which have a value below the EU thresholds.

Construction consultants wishing to participate in Government construction services contracts, which have a value below the EU thresholds, are notified of a change to the criteria of Pre Qualification Questionnaires (PQQ). This change relates to the assessment of Health and Safety competence and has been endorsed by the Construction Industry Forum for Northern Ireland.

From **1 April 2014**, it shall be a requirement of all construction consultants wishing to participate in Government construction services contracts, which have a value below the EU threshold, that they must have a health and safety competence assessment certificate as a design practice. This certificate must be issued by an organisation that is a scheme member of the Safety Schemes in Procurement (SSIP) forum.

A number of the organisations listed on the SSIP website below are scheme members of the SSIP forum and provide certification as a design practice.

<http://www.ssip.org.uk/>

The key advantage for a construction consultant holding a valid SSIP certificate is the time saved in preparing and submitting a PQQ, particularly for those firms submitting PQQs on a regular basis.

A consultant failing to provide evidence that it holds a valid SSIP certification will have its PQQ application rejected.

Therefore, construction consultants interested in supplying construction services to Government should act now by taking steps to ensure that they gain certification before 1 April 2014.