

Principal Contractor Licensing



everyone
home safe
every day

Hello everyone,

This week I wanted to write about Principal Contractor Licencing. The purpose of the Principal Contractor Licence is to provide us with assurance that the Principal Contractors we appoint have the necessary health, safety, quality, and environment management systems in place to carry out their duties under the Construction Design & Management (CDM) Regulations 2015 and meet our additional requirements.

Principal Contractors must be competent and adequately resourced to plan, manage, and monitor construction as they are responsible for the health and safety of everybody carrying out construction work, or anyone affected by their work.



Rob Cairns,
Regional Managing Director

The Principal Licencing Team will assure a Principal Contractor has the management systems in place by undertaking an initial management system audit and then checking that the Principal Contractor is working within their management system on site.

Once the initial audit is complete a Provisional Licence or Management Systems Accepted letter can be issued, both are valid for 12 months, then a review can be undertaken of tender activities and continued compliance.

A full licence can be issued when a supplier has demonstrated they have the necessary management system, competence, capability, and organisation in place during the construction when acting as Principal Contractor. The full licence is valid for 3 years, providing the Principal Contractor continues to meet the conditions of issue, which includes a programme of on-site audits during construction, periodic reviews on the risk, capability and culture of the organisation and ongoing monitoring to ensure they maintain their Principal Contractor capability.

To prevent Principal Contractors discharging their duties ineffectively and importing increased risk to the infrastructure, sanctions may be applied to improve performance and prevent activity. In cases of fundamental or persistent failure, licences may be revoked. Our fair culture principals are in place for

dealing with breaches of the standard and failing performance. Any sanctions and revocations will be managed with the Project Management team of the project who have concerns for their abilities.

Principal Contractor Licencing can apply to both internal and external suppliers.

In our region, Construction Services have been undergoing their application for a full principal contractor Licence and I'm pleased to say have now received a provisional letter of compliance valid for 12 months having met all the licencing requirements just like any of our external suppliers. An audit will now be arranged in the next 12 months and our focus will now be on making sure we have all processes in place. Appropriate arrangements have been made for personnel to take responsibility for the ownership of the manual and the implementation of the applicable standards during construction works.

Areas covered by this provisional letter of compliance include construction services track, off track, vegetation management, level crossing installation and refurbishment, signalling and telecommunication, distribution and plant and minor civils. Maintenance organisation and asset protection is not covered by this letter.

I'd like to offer my full congratulations to the team and look forward to the full audit where we aim to progress to a full letter of compliance.

If you would like to find out more information, please do visit [safety_central](#) and look up NR/L2/INI/0070 – Supplier Licencing.

Stay safe

Rob



Great



Okay



Poor

This update is provided by the Wales and Western Communications team. For any queries, please contact walesandwesterncomms@networkrail.co.uk



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