

Haskell's - 'Designing for safety' Programme.

The Problem/Challenge

Traditionally architects were encouraged to stay away from construction safety issues due to potential liability claims, producing a huge amount of paperwork and creating a huge risk register of issues which are not necessary to capture as a way of showing you are doing something. These embedded attitudes need to change.

The Risks

This claim conscious attitude inhibits good integration of design and construction safety and potentially causes accidents instead of avoiding them.

The Solution

Haskell Design Build (US) are responsible for design and construction and their motto is "one company , one responsibility". They have corporate liability coverage for all their architects and construction professionals. They use collaborative design-build delivery including a safety alert system using only 8 types of warning symbols on drawings to flag potential hazards.

The Benefits

Safety symbols are placed where the hazard is on a drawing, ie. not in other risk analysis documents or in the margins where they are easily missed.

Key Points

Symbols are explained in the margins and in other contract documents. Subcontractors are advised that this does not relieve them of their own safety responsibilities.

