

# Keeping People Safe Starts Long Before Work Begins

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When we think about health and safety, it's easy to picture what happens on site. But safer projects often start much earlier - with the decisions made before a contractor ever arrives.

Choosing competent contractors is one of the simplest and most effective ways to reduce risk. That's why health and safety pre-qualification continues to play such an important role.

Good pre-qualification isn't about paperwork

Pre-qualification sometimes gets a bad reputation.

Contractors can find themselves completing the same information again and again for different clients, while buyers spend valuable time reviewing similar evidence in different formats.

More paperwork doesn't necessarily mean better safety.

What matters is having confidence that every contractor has been assessed against a recognised standard before work begins.

Making it simpler

That's where SSIP comes in.

SSIP exists to reduce unnecessary duplication while maintaining robust health and safety standards.

Instead of asking contractors to complete multiple health and safety assessments for different clients, SSIP provides a HSE-recognised assessment standard and goes further by promoting mutual recognition

between its member schemes. Once a contractor has successfully completed an SSIP assessment, that assessment can be recognised by many participating organisations.

The result is a process that's simpler for contractors and has more consistent assessment standards for buyers.

More time focused on real risks

Reducing duplicate assessments doesn't mean reducing scrutiny.

It means spending less time checking the same information repeatedly and more time focusing on the things that really affect safety on each project.

That includes:

- site-specific risks
- planning the work safely
- effective supervision
- monitoring performance throughout the project

These are the activities that make the biggest difference once work is underway.

Better procurement. Better safety.

Good procurement isn't separate from health and safety.

It's part of it.

When every contractor is assessed against a recognised standard, buyers can have greater confidence in the organisations they appoint, and contractors can spend less time on repetitive administration and more time delivering work safely.

That's the principle behind SSIP.

By making health and safety pre-qualification simpler, more consistent and more widely recognised, everyone can focus on what matters most: creating safer workplaces and helping everyone get home safely at the end of the day.

"Safer projects start with simpler procurement. By reducing paperwork and using recognised standards, organisations can focus less on administration and more on choosing competent contractors, managing real risks and keeping people safe." Eleanor Eaton, Chair, SSIP