



Construction Act Changes

Leading Wales Law firm, Douglas-Jones Mercer and Antur Insurance, one of Wales' leading Insurance brokers jointly hosted a Seminar at the Liberty Stadium on Thursday 8th December for over 100 delegates from across the Construction Industry, where details of the changes and amendments to the Construction Act 1996 were presented and discussed.

As of 1st October 2011, construction and engineering businesses face important changes to the law. Part II of the Housing Grants, Construction and Regeneration Act 1996 has been amended and the changes affect nearly all commercial construction contracts in the UK.

The key changes include:

- Changes to the payment mechanisms in construction contracts;
- Parties rights to suspend performance for non-payment;
- Changes to Adjudication.

All those in the construction industry need to be aware of how these changes affect their business and the seminar was designed specifically for construction professionals & companies to bring them fully up to date from a legal, insurance and practical perspective.

Those who attended included Costain, one of the UK's leading Construction companies, Gwalia Housing Association, numerous main contractors, sub contractors, Architects, Consulting Engineers, Project Management Companies and those in the Steel Fabrication sector, all of whom will be impacted upon by the changes in legislation.

Speaking after the event, Philip Graham, Director and Head of Construction at Douglas-Jones Mercer said, "We were delighted with the turn out this morning and particularly with the quality of organisations who attended, highlighting the importance across the industry of the changes to the legislation. The legislation was originally introduced back in 1996 to ease cash flow within the industry and has now been updated to ease its application to contracts. As is often the case, knowledge is key to the effective control of budgets. In addition, management of expectations is important to all businesses, no matter what sector."

With the economic climate in a precarious state, getting contracts drafted as comprehensively as possible is essential, thus minimising contractual issues/disputes during the course of a project.

With interest having already been expressed by other companies in the region, Philip Graham added, "We would be delighted to meet with organisations who have concerns or queries over these new changes, so please do not hesitate to contact us. We have considerable experience in the drafting of contracts, but also in dealing with disputes where existing contracts have perhaps not

been as comprehensive as they should have been or where the evolution of construction projects has given rise to differences”.

“The changes to the Construction Act is such a huge potential minefield that we felt it was very important that we supported Douglas-Jones Mercer in getting this message out to both clients and prospects who would be affected by these changes in the law. Antur has many years of experience in the construction industry, and has always made a commitment to understanding the nature of our clients’ business and the risks and challenges that they face. Participation in such events equips us to offer assistance in any insurance related issues in this area and is, I believe, an illustration of our professionalism which has contributed to our Chartered status. Antur will be looking to run further seminars in conjunction with our commercial partners in the future.”

John Knox, Chairman of Antur Insurance commented, “The changes to the Construction Act are such a huge potential minefield that we felt it was very important that we supported Douglas-Jones Mercer in getting this message out to both clients and prospects who would be affected by these changes in the law. Antur has many years of experience in the construction industry, and has always made a commitment to understanding the nature of our clients’ business and the risks and challenges that they face. Participation in such events equips us to offer assistance in any insurance related issues in this area and is, I believe, an illustration of our professionalism which has contributed to our Chartered status. Antur will be looking to run further seminars in conjunction with our commercial partners in the future.”

For further information or assistance, please contact Paul Thorburn at Douglas-Jones Mercer, either via e.mail pt@djm.law.co.uk or via telephone 07786 625731





Paul Thorburn, Geraint Evans & Steve Sharp



Philip Graham & John Knox